士郎正宗 CONFLICT 1 [NO MORE NOISE]

dominion™

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DOMINION™

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DOMINION: CONFLICT 1 [NO MORE NOISE]
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Dark Horse Manga | A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. | 10956 SE Main Street | Milwaukie, OR 97222
DarkHorse.com | To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

Second print edition: January 2008
Digital ISBN 978-1-63008-601-5

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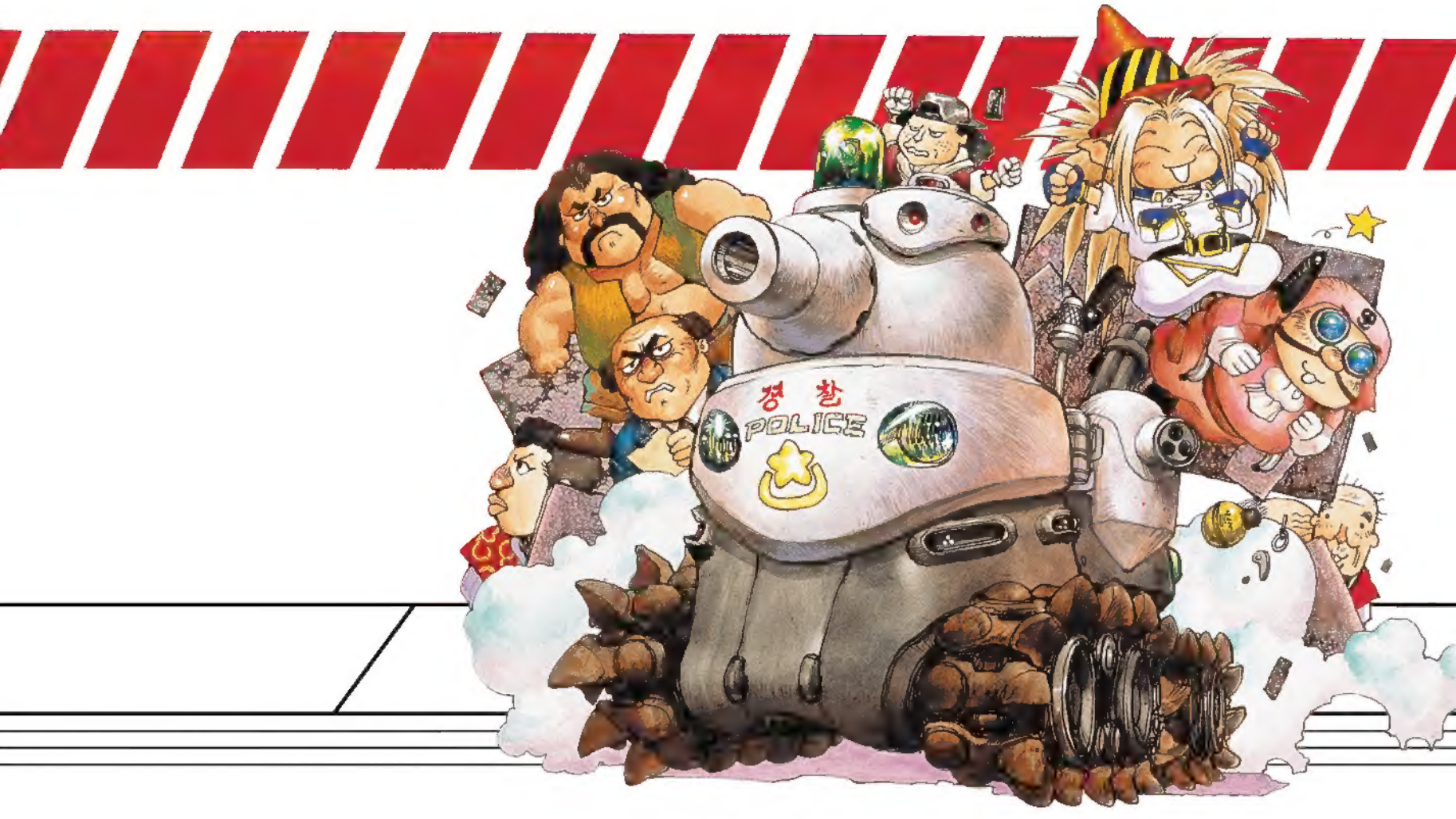

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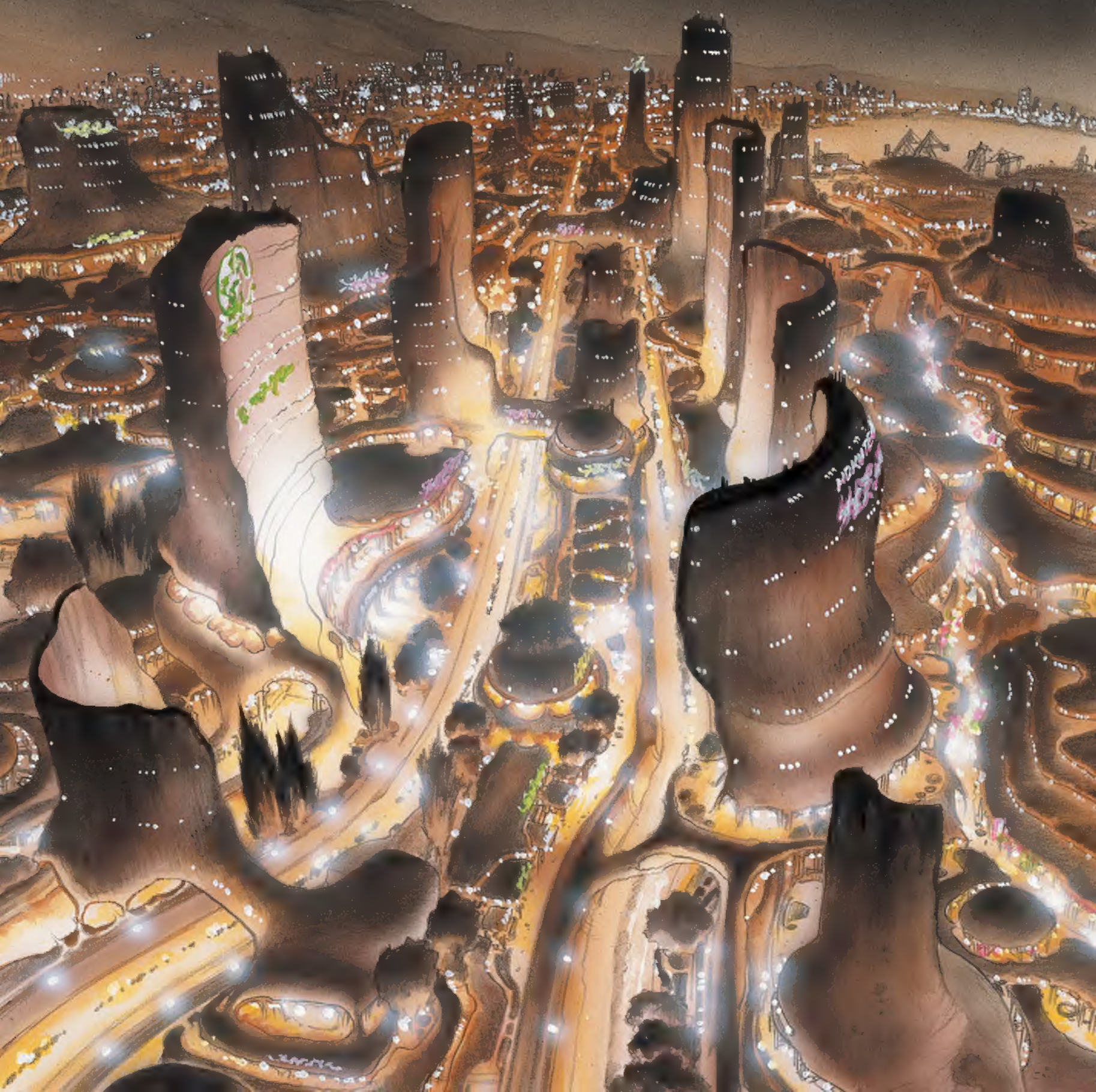
PROLOGUE

This story is a work of fiction. All characters, places, companies, products, organizations, machines, settings, and other details are products of my fevered imagination. They have no connection whatsoever with existing names, organizations, principles, laws, etcetera, etcetera . . . so please be understanding. Again, all supplementary text and data are presented as part of a work of entertainment: they do not represent responsible reporting, research, or factual data. So, please be careful about quoting me as a source or using this material elsewhere! Thanks!

—Shirow Masamune



HOKUTENROW

北天楼

うどん

HERE'S YER ORDER A' NOODLES, MISS!

WHUD

THANKS-- JUST THE THING ON A COLD, WINTER'S NIGHT!

KRAK

POLICE

YOU ON TRAFFIC CONTROL, FOR THE BIG SALES?

WELL, YEAH... TECHNICALLY, THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR. BUT IT'S A SHOPLIFTERS' HEAVEN IN THERE-- THE *REALLY* BAD ONES EVEN DRIVE UP IN FAKE EXPRESS COURIER VANS! SO WE--

beep! fzzk

SQUAD LEADER!

SQUAD LEADER *LEONA OZAKI!*

?!

...REPEAT, HYOGO PREFECTURAL POLICE HQ TO ALL STATIONS, ALL MOBILE UNITS! AIRCRAFT ID C-27, WANTED ON NATION-WIDE, HOT-SHEET APB, NOW FLYING SOUTH ALONG ROUTE FORTY-THREE...

beep!

LISTEN TO THIS, LEONA!

vree vree KANG!

정찰 POLICE

YOU GOT HIM ON THE DOWNLINK, HABANA?

ID C-27? ISN'T THAT URUSHI-MARU, THE SKYSCRAPER PIRATE?

HE JUST PASSED THE KOSHIEN BALLPARK... THERE'S A PAIR OF OSAKA POLICE CHOPPERS ON HIS TAIL.

OSAKA JERKS!

YO HOHO!

HALT! I SAID HALT!!

*FX: MUNCH GULP

SCARF MNCH

I CAN KILL THIS OFF IN TWO MINUTES!

RATS!

Squad leader (police sergeant): Commander of a ten-person squad, comprising four maintenance personnel and three tanks with two-man crews (including the squad leader). The other two tanks should be nearby on the same traffic-control assignment. The Newport police department tank police unit is made up of three squads and one company commander.

TELL T-32 AND T-33 TO STAY ON PATROL.

LOCK HIM UP AS A TARGET BUT KEEP THE MAIN GUN SAFETY ON!

HE'LL BE RIGHT OVER US IN ABOUT THREE MINUTES. WHATCHA WANNA DO?

HE'S CLOSING FAST, ALTI-TUDE NINETY METERS... THAT'S INSIDE OUR EFFEC-TIVE FIRING RANGE.

*ROOOARR

YA HA HA!

OKAY, WE GOT NANKAIDEN DEAD AHEAD!

IF YOU GOT TIME TO FLAP YOUR LIPS, WOMAN, WHY DON'T YOU GET THE DAMN BOMBS READY?!

YA HA HA HA HA

HEY, YOUSE DUMB COP-PERS! KISS MAH SWEET BUTT, FLATFOOTS!

*FX: SMAK SMAK SMAK SMAK

*SHREEE BKOOM

FIRE!

MAYBE WE CAN "ACCIDENTALLY" GET ONE OF THOSE JURISDIC-TION-JUMPING OSAKA SCUM-BAGS, TOO?

*WEEOO WEEOO

*VWHOOOSH

THAT'S THEM!

WHEN I WAS STILL WITH THE OSAKA MOTORCYCLE COPS, I CROSSED DISTRICT LINES ALL THE TIME PURSUING *BANG-GANGERS*, HABANA!

beep!

SO NO IN-FIGHTING ON *MY* SQUAD!

DID YOU, NOW...?!

*BANG-GANGERS: Osaka Police slang for bike gangs.

*FX: VREEEE KANG!

*WHANGG

URF!

?!?! WHAT THE HELL?!

huh?! YOU WANT US TO PAY TAXES, THEN YOU GOTTA WORK FOR YOUR PAY! YOU GOVERNMENT PARASITES ALWAYS--

*bait EAT THIS!!

*WHSSH

POLICE

MY CUTE LITTLE "PUKE FACTOR MAX"! MY PRECIOUS "BARF-O-RAMA MARK 2"!

WAUGHH!! NO!! YOU'RE FALLING ON THE WRONG TARGET!

*WHSSHHHHH

*BOMPH

YEEP!

EEEYEEUCH!

GACK!! THEY'RE STINK BOMBS!

HUH? SMOKE GRENADES ?!

HEY, I DON'T SMELL NOTHING

*FWFFFFTT

*FX: WHAM

?!

NOW WHAT'S GOING WRONG?!

WHAT THE HELL?!

OH, BROTHER! I STUNK UP THE *HOKU-TENRO* BY MISTAKE! MY ASS IS *GRASS!!*

AIEE!?

SKRRAK

AH, WELL... AT LEAST I SHOOK THOSE POLICE CHOPPERS... HOME-WARD, HO!

WILL SOMEONE *PLEASE* TELL ME JUST WHAT THE *HELL* IS GOING ON TONIGHT?

WHO WAS *THAT?*

*FX WHSSHH

*Actually the Osaka Air Police don't fly helicopters—they use tilt-rotor aircraft

YGYAK

*KRA

DOMINION™

CONFLICT 1: [NO MORE NOISE]

*sign: PATROL CARS, TRAFFIC POLICE

*sign: Osaka Kyoto Office Interprefectural Riot Police 3rd Platoon garage

POLICE NEW PORT DEPT.

MORNIN'!

GOOD MORNING, SIR!

ANOTHER COLD ONE, HEY?!

HEY, THERE, FAITHFUL TROOPERS!

*BRMM88

GOOD MORNING, SQUAD LEADER OZAKI, MA'AM!

WHAT'S THAT?! YOU DON'T MIND STAYING UP, BUT YOU WANT ME TO WIPE THE MORNING DEW OFF YOUR SHINING FLANKS BEFORE YOU RUST?! OKEY-DOKEY, DEARIE!

OH, YOU POOR DEAR-- YOU'VE BEEN WAITING UP *ALL NIGHT* IN CASE THAT WICKED URUSHI-MARU STRUCK AGAIN, AND YOU COULDN'T GET A WINK OF SLEEP?!

*FX: PAT PAT

POWER

HOKUTENRO SAYS SANITATION CREWS HAVE WORKED THROUGH THE NIGHT TO NEUTRALIZE THE ODOR, AND THAT THEY WILL BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL

ANALOG RGB Y/C VTR

悪臭テロ

1:42

...HOKUTENRO DEPARTMENT STORE IS SUING THE NANKAIDEN RETAIL CHAIN, CHARGING THAT IT PLOTTED YESTERDAY'S MYSTERY STINK-BOMB ATTACK TO DRIVE AWAY HOKUTENRO CUSTOMERS.

JUST COUNT TO TEN, DEAR. IT'S THE SAME EVERY MORNING, REMEMBER?

DAMN REPORTERS... THEY'RE ALWAYS BLAMING THE POLICE. RRGG

KLIK

NEXT, THE WEATHER--

POLICE NEW PORT DEPT.

POLICE NEW PORT DEPT.

*VRMM

YOU BE CAREFUL, DEAR.

YOU, TOO, HON.

*SLAM

POLICE

*FX KRAK

OUTTA TH' WAY, SUCKERS!!

ばーん

*WHAM

YEAH, BUT I NEVER DREAMED THAT LITTLE PLANE WOULD BE SO DAMN *TOUGH*.

HEY, LEONA! I HEAR YOU TAGGED URUSHI-MARU WITH ONE LAST NIGHT!

CHIK

*KTHD

*KTHD

*KTHD

OKAY, TROOPS, HERE'S WHAT WE GOT FOR TODAY...

LEONA, YOUR TEAM'S IN RESERVE. YON AND PAK, YOU GUYS COME WITH ME.

WE'RE GONNA *STRIP-SEARCH* THE DISTRICT WHERE WE LOST URUSHI-MARU!

"HOLD BACK"...? *YOU* HOLD BACK? GOD'LL GETCHA FOR LYING, GIRL!

I MIGHT'VE MADE ASSISTANT DETECTIVE.

NEVER HAPPEN!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE HELD BACK. I SHOULD HAVE SLAMMED HIM WITH AN *H.E.* ROUND.

なはは

FX BWAHAHA

*THA HA

*SIGH

THAT'LL TEACH YOU TO FIGHT WITH BORG'S PLATOON, PAK!

AW, HELL... THE *OTHER* PLATOONS'LL BE THERE, TOO?

--BUT DON'T LET THE OTHER PLATOONS FIND OUT.

SHIT, YEAH! STACK 'EM HIGH--

PLATOON LEADER BRENTEN! CAN WE TAKE ARMOR PIERCING?!

I WANT TREADS SLAPPIN' PAVEMENT IN FIVE--GOT IT?!

SHOULDN'T WE ALL ATTEND MORNING INSPEC-TION AND LEARN FROM THE CHIEF'S LECTURE, SQUAD LEADER OZAKI?!

YES'M

GOOD-- I NEED TO HIT THE *ATM.*

YIPPEE! I'LL GO GET SOME SODA AND CHIPS AN' STUFF FOR US!

WE'RE IN *RESERVE!*

YOU HEAR THAT?

POLICE STOP

DOOM

MAYBE, UH, MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK IT OUT, TOO...

B-BUT SQUAD LEADER...!

OOH, HOW WEIRD!

ほ ほ ほ

TH-THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I... I'LL GO AND SUFFER FOR ALL OF US.

*YA HA HA KOFF HA HA HEH

講堂

*sign CONFERENCE ROOM

ON THE DOUBLE!

EXCELLENT! STOW BADGES! NEXT, CUFFTAPERS!

*sign CLEAN UP YOUR OWN DAMN MESS

NEW YORK POLICE

IF YOU'RE LOW ON CUFF TAPE, TAKE A SPARE CART!

STOW 'TAPERS! NEXT, GUNS!

WHAT?! THEY CANCELLED OUR SERIES?!

愛

KLIK

KCHAK!

CHIK

SKSSH

KA-CHAK!

SEBURO POLICE NEWPORT NP-501

*poster JRUSHI MARU

SET YOUR GUNS ON FULL AUTO AND CHECK YOUR SAFETIES. STOW GUNS! NEXT, RADIOS!

REMEMBER, ON COLD DAYS LIKE TODAY, EVERYONE BUNDLES UP! AND WHEN PEOPLE BUNDLE UP, IT TAKES MORE RUBBER BULLETS TO STOP THEM!

IF YOU HAVE THE *SLIGHTEST* PROBLEM, GIVE IT TO MAINTENANCE AND TAKE A SPARE!

beep

RUN DIAGNOSTICS!

IT'S JUST FIFTEEN MINUTES, BUT THEY'RE DOING IT LIVE. SO, EVERYONE ON *HQ* DUTY TODAY, BE *PROFESSIONAL!*

HOKUTEN TV WILL BE HERE TODAY AT TEN-THIRTY TO SHOOT A SEGMENT FOR "LOVE WILL SAVE THE WORLD."

I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT IF I WERE YOU.

OH NO! MY MAKE-UP WOULDN'T GO ON RIGHT THIS MORNING!

GOOD WORK.

OKAY, CHIEF! INSPECTION COMPLETE!

AT EASE! NOW, LISTEN UP!

*FX KTAK

I'M *UNI*... PLEASED TA MEETCHA!!

THEY'RE NOT *EXACTLY* GREEN RECRUITS, BUT SHOW THEM THE ROPES ANYHOW.

AND, UM, YES... AS OF TODAY, NEWPORT POLICE STATION WILL DEPLOY ITS FIRST ANDROID PEACE OFFICERS.

WOW!

♪ ♪ HIYA, BOYS! MY NAME'S *ANNA!*

TEN-*HUT!*

AH!?!

If you don't know why she's so upset go buy **DOMINION VOLUME ONE!**

I KNOW IT'S COLD OUT THERE, BUT IF YOU WEAR TOO MANY LAYERS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE. SO BE CAREFUL! DIS-*MISSED!*

!!??

TH-TH-THOSE TWO!! THEY'RE...

NO! CAN'T BE! NO WAY!

HEY! AREN'T THEY--?!

EXCUSE ME, CHIEF, BUT--!

'HA HA HA HEE HEE

ほほほほほ

?!!

OZAKI, IN MY OFFICE.

THAT'S ALL, PEOPLE. GET OUT THERE AND BRING ME BACK SOME SCALPS!!

*No ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL OF RIGHTS

BUT THEY'RE ANDROIDS. *TOOLS*. BY LAW, THEY CAN'T BE HELD CRIMINALLY LIABLE.

TRUST ME, *I KNOW!*

YES, I KNOW. BOTH OF THEM WERE CRIMINALS, TOP OF THE "MOST-WANTED" LIST.

署長室

在室中

*signs CHIEF OF POLICE / DO NOT DISTURB!

*1x AHAM

GIVE ME A GOD-DAMN *BREAK*, CHIEF!

YOU EXPECT ME TO BUY THAT CRAP?!

POLICE

AND TO ASSIGN ONE OF THEM TO *MY* SQUAD!

CHIEF, THAT'S JUST *NOT FAIR!!*

YOU GOTTA LIGHTEN UP, DEARIE, OR YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A HEART ATTACK AND *CROAK!*

*FWAP FWAP

KILL

MAN, I HEARD YOU HUMANS HAVE LOUSY MEMORIES, BUT YOU'RE, LIKE, *TOTALLY* ANAL!

NYA HA HA HA HA HA!

YARGGH!

*FWAP

*FWAP

*BAM BAM BAM

YOU GOTTA BE MORE SENSITIVE AND *FEEL OUR PAIN*, " LITTLE "MISS MINI-TANK"...!

YEAH YEAH

HEY, EVEN ANDROIDS GOT IT TOUGH, Y'KNOW!

I... I NEVER SAID...

*FX HRMPH!

AND IT IS NOT TRUE, ABSOLUTELY *NOT TRUE*, THAT I HAVE TAKEN BRIBES OR AM TRYING TO BROWN-NOSE MY SUPERIORS.

SCREAM AND CRY ALL YOU WANT-- WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

THAT'S "POLICE SERGEANT LEONA OZAKI **SIR**" TO YOU!!

*KPOW

NOW, ONE MORE THING. THERE'S A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR THE NEXT-GENERATION POLICE TANK AT HYOGO PREFECTURAL POLICE *HQ* TODAY AT TEN. I WANT YOU TO TAKE CHARLES' PLACE.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT. I KNOW YOU'LL ALL GET ALONG.

I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT...

LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

NYA HA HA! YOU LOOK *WEIRD!*

POLICE

BESIDES, IT'S JUST A FORMALITY. REGS SAY THEY NEED A VOICE FROM THE FIELD. SIT STILL, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, AND YOU'LL DO FINE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'RE PRETTY WELL KNOWN, YOURSELF.

SO *THAT'S* WHY THAT LOUSY BRENTEN LEFT ON PATROL SO FAST!

AIEE!! NOT THAT FESTERING CESSPOOL OF ELITIST PRIGS?!

THE BOTTOM LINE IS, ANNA AND UNI ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CONVINCE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS. ESPECIALLY *YOU*, LEONA. THAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE, THEM INCLUDED.

LOOK, I COULD EXPLAIN UNTIL I'M BLUE IN THE FACE, BUT I'D STILL BE FORCING THEM ON YOU.

*FX: KCHAK BREEEP TAKKA TAK

HELLO, POLICE!

WHY DIDN'T YOU EXPLAIN ALL THIS TO EVERYONE, AT INSPECTION?

JUST ONE MORE QUESTION, CHIEF...

I HAVE MY *ORDERS*, SIR. I'LL DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

BACK *OFF* WHEN YOU WALK WITH ME! I FEEL LIKE A WORLD-WAR-TWO RUSSIAN TANK DRIVER TAKEN PRISONER BY THE GERMANS!

?

?

YEAH, THOSE TIGHT-ASS JERKS IN ACCOUNTING SAY WE GOTTA WAIT UNTIL *AFTER* WE WORK TO GET PAID! CAN YOU, LIKE, *BELIEVE* THAT?!

I OUGHTTA KICK THEIR BUTTS!

CASH?

HEY, HEY, SARGE! SORRY T'BUG YA RIGHT OFF THE BAT AN' ALL, BUT WE NEED SOME CASH, Y'KNOW?

whew

VERY WELL.

*FX: PAH!

*sign: Criminal Investigation Section

THAT'S RIGHT! COOL! BESIDES, YOU GOTTA CELEBRATE US JOINING YOU GUYS! FREE MUNCHIES! *YAHOO!*

WAIT A SEC! I KNOW! HEY, BOSS--IF I GIVE *THIS* TO YOU, WILL YA AT LEAST BUY US BREAKFAST?!

AND THAT'S ANOTHER THING-- HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO SQUEEZE THAT SIX-FOOT-PLUS BIMBO INTO A TANK, ANYWAY?!

*SHEESH!

AND, LIKE

GEEZ... I WENT TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO GET THE DUMB OL' THING, AND THOSE TURKEYS IN FORENSICS WOULDN'T GIVE ME A *CENT* FOR IT.

I JUMPED OFF A BUILDING LAST NIGHT AND RIGHT UP ONTO HIS PLANE... BUT THE PLACE I GRABBED ONTO JUST RIPPED RIGHT OFF! CHEESY, HUH?

Hmph!

IT'S, LIKE, A PANEL OFF *URUSHI-MARU'S* AIRPLANE. SO BUY US BREAKFAST, OKAY?

AND JUST WHAT IS *THAT?*

*WHAA?!

*FX: HAHAHA

ARE YOU TELLING ME IT WAS *YOU* WHO SMASHED IN THOSE ROOFS LAST NIGHT, NOT URUSHI-MARU...?!

BUMMER, HUH? SO, ANYWAY... *FEED ME!*

YEAH, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE, LIKE, *TOTALLY* COOL TO NAB A BIGGIE WHEN WE JOINED THE COPS, RIGHT?

I CAN'T STAND IT...

Uh, huh...

MY...ER... MEMORY CRYSTAL IS SLIGHTLY UNCLEAR ON THOSE DETAILS...

*FX: URK!

SQUAD LEADER LEONA OZAKI, KINKI REGIONAL TANK POLICE, THIRD PLATOON! REQUEST PERMISSION TO ENTER!

sigh FORENSICS IF YOU DON'T NEED TO COME IN HERE DON'T! -FORENSICS CHIEF

BOY, SEE IF *I* WORK HARD!

YOU'RE KIDDIN'? NO *BONUSES?*

*NOK NOK NOK

NOW, YOU TWO LISTEN UP! FORENSICS DOES *NOT* "PAY" FOR EVIDENCE-- UNDERSTAND?

鑑識係

*FX KCHAK

OH, WAIT--I REMEMBER. EVERYONE ELSE WENT TO *FORLAB** ON THE URUSHI-MARU CASE.

OH, TOKU... YOU'RE ALL ALONE?

*FX TAKKA TAK TAKKA TAK TAK TAKKA

OH, YEAH, BY THE WAY... THESE TWO JUST JOINED THE FORCE ON FLOOR-MOPPING DETAIL.

I NEED A FOUR-WAY ANALYSIS ON THIS, STAT.

I AM **NOT** GETTING INVOLVED IN THIS!!

LETTERS? A NAME?

WHAT'S THIS? CAN WE EAT IT?

HUH?

WHO IS THIS GUY?

* **FORLAB**: Forensic Science Research Center A facility attached to the Hyogo Prefecture Police HQ Better equipped than the local forensics departments

'FX YAY

やった*

GEE, MAYBE THEY *HAVE* HAD IT TOUGH!

IF YOU'RE LYING, WE'LL EAT *YOU* INSTEAD!!

REALLY?! *REALLY?!* NO KIDDING?!

...I GUESS I COULD BUY YOU GUYS LUNCH.

WELL, IF THIS *REALLY* HELPS US TRACK DOWN URUSHI-MARU...

A "PRESENT"...?

THIS GUY

YOU SENT THE DEPUTY CHIEF

YEAH! SENDING ONE TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF REALLY WORKED!

I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SEND HER A PRESENT, TOO, HUH?

YOU'RE SO MEAN, BOSS!

SHUT UP SHUT UP *SHUT UP!!*

ONWE!

PUT THOSE BACK ON MY TANK *RIGHT NOW!*

'KAY, I'M GONNA HAVE THIS BOLT HERE FOR DINNER. AND I GOT SOME TASTY POLYFOAM FOR BREAKFAST. AND THEN FOR TOMORROW'S LUNCH...

GEE, THAT'S NOT MUCH FOOD...

HEE, HEE!! WE SENT IT WITH HIS NAME AS THE SENDER, AN' MARKED THE BOX "UNABLE TO DELIVER: RETURN TO SENDER," SO NO ONE WOULD KNOW WHO SENT IT!

えっへっ!

*TAH-DAA

WE SENT HIM A *VERY* SPECIAL BOX OF SWEETIES, DIDN'T WE, ANNA?

THE DEPUTY CHIEF TOOK A BRIBE?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. IS THAT HOW THEY GOT IN THE DOOR...?

*VRMM BBBMMBBMMBBMM

VREEEE

GOLLY... YOU MUST GET A CRICK IN YOUR NECK DOING THAT ARMY INSPECTION CRAP EVERY MORNING!

MA'AM?!

ASADA! SHINOZAKI!

MAYBE.

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ!!

POLICE

POLICE

LEONA'S - NOT A REAL POLICE BIKE

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING ABOUT THIS... ER, ARE YOU?!

AND, uh, MA'AM, ABOUT YOUR SKIRT.

GIVE THEIR RECORDS A ONCE OVER, AND THEN KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. *DISCREETLY*, OKAY?

YEP... HE WAS ON THE FAST TRACK TO A HIGH-LEVEL STAFF JOB, TOO... THE RE-ORG WIPED ALL THAT OUT.

OH, YEAH?! THE DEPUTY CHIEF REALLY USED T'BE IN THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE?

HE REALLY WANTS TO STAY IN JAPAN SO MUCH? WEIRD.

SOME-TIMES I JUST DON'T GET THESE HUMANS.

GEEZ... WHY DIDN'T HE SELL HIMSELF TO THE U.N.?

YES, MA'AM!

THINKS SHE'S AT ATTENTION

YOU'RE IN CHARGE, HABANA!!

*BRM *BRM *BRM *BRM

POLICE

*stick NEWPORT POLICE STATION TANK POLICE

*KRNCH KRNCH KRNCH

HMM... NOT A TRACE.

POLICE

POLICE

sign: SAFE DRIVING IS CONSIDERATE DRIVING. SO IF YA CAN'T DRIVE, GET OFF DA FRIGGIN ROAD!

AND SOUTH OF THAT, WHERE COULD HE LAND? ON A BIG SAND-SHIP, MAYBE?

HMMM

A FEW OPEN PLACES, SURE, BUT THEY ALL BELONG TO BIG COMPANIES. FACTORY GROUNDS, WAREHOUSES, LIKE THAT.

NOPE. BUT THERE'S NO PLACE SOUTH OF HERE WHERE THEY COULD'VE LANDED.

T-7

LESSEE... THERE'S KENBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, SAGAWA ARMAMENTS, SHINHAMA FISHERIES...

AARGG... LOOKING AT MAPS MAKES MY HEAD SPIN.

MAYBE, BUT IF YOU BELIEVE THE SIGHTINGS AND REPORTS ON ENGINE NOISE, HE WOULD HAVE *HAD* TO COME DOWN AROUND HERE.

NO MEANS *NO!*

SO YOU SAY CHRIST'S SECOND COMING IS IN 2020 AND HE'LL BE LANDING IN INDIA OR JAPAN, RIGHT?

AW, C'MON, HABANA, OLD BUDDY, OLD PAL... I'M *BEGGIN'* YA!

BRRIIING

HELLO, NEWPORT POLICE STATION!

BRR'IINGG

I SAID, YOU *DON'T* WANT THE TANK POLICE. WHAT YOU *DO* WANT IS--

MAN AM I *BORED* WONDER IF UNI'S GOT ANYTHING TO DO

*stickers DON'T BE FO[illegible] [illegible]AIS-HAHS

HOW THE HELL DID YOU FIND OUT THEY WERE FILMING HERE, ANYWAY?!

FORGET IT!

WHAT HARM CAN IT DO, HUH? JUST A COUPLE OF *TINY,* LITTLE STICKERS...

GOOD HEAVENS! YOU CAN'T *REALLY* MEAN THAT, HABANA!

BESIDES, THAT "LOVE WILL SAVE THE WORLD" PROGRAM MAKES ME *PUKE.*

I CAN SCRATCH MY OWN DAMN BACK! NOW, BEAT IT, CLOWN!

YOU SCRATCH OUR BACK, AND WE'LL SCRATCH YOURS, HABANA!

PRETTY PLEAAAASE?! WE JUST WANT TO PUT OUR OWN STICKERS ON OUR OWN WHEELCHAIR. C'MON-- HOW CAN YOU COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT?

N'EST-CE PAS?

THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST TRYING TO HELP!

NOW THAT'S JUST *NOT FAIR,* HABANA!

PAY FOR PRAY. HAH!!

"TOSS ME SOME CHANGE AND YOU'LL GO TO HEAVEN." THAT'S THE IDEA, RIGHT?

HALF A HEART IS BETTER THAN NONE!

SO YOU'VE GOT A HALFWAY GOOD HEART?

WASN'T ME, EITHER THAT STUFF *STINKS!*

HEY! WHO LEFT THIS HAIR OIL IN THE LUNCH ROOM?!

OKAY, MAYBE IT'S *NOT* MUCH. BUT WE HAVE TO USE EVERY OPPORTU-NITY...

SO DON'T YOU FEEL *ANYTHING* WHEN YOU SEE THOSE POOR REFUGEES, HABANA?!

YOUR PROBLEM, SHINOZAKI, IS THAT YOU BELIEVE EVERY WORD OF CRAP YOU SEE ON TV!

...

I MEAN, OFFICER HARDD...

UH, ER, OFFICER "DIE-HARD"-- OOPS...

COME ON, YOU GUYS. DOESN'T *ANYONE* KNOW WHO THIS BELONGS TO?

NUMBER ONE, THE KIND OF THINKING THAT CONFUSES LOVE WITH MONEY IS THE SAME KIND OF SENSIBILITY THAT CALLS SHORT PEOPLE "VERTICALLY CHALLENGED."

H-HOW INSENSITIVE! I'M REPORTING YOU!

NO, I... RATHER, I MEAN, UH... WILL YOU GO LOOK AND SEE IF THOSE ARTIFICIAL PEOPLE THINGS ARE WORKING?

SOME-THING WRONG, SIR?

ack

GECCH!! THIS STUFF IS *REALLY* FOUL!

JUST BECAUSE A TV CREW'S COMING... SOME PEOPLE ARE *SO* VAIN!

すすひ

*FX BARFF

*FX SNFF SNFF

AND, UH, I'LL TAKE THAT HAIR OIL... GET RID OF IT, YOU KNOW...

AH, YES, YES, RIGHT YOU ARE. I'LL DO THAT.

IF THE DEPUTY CHIEF *INSISTS* THAT I "GO LOOK," THEN I WILL "GO LOOK," SIR. BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF THE DEPUTY CHIEF WENT AND "LOOKED" FOR HIMSELF, SIR?

RLE NEWPORT, RI

*FWHUMP

wheww

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

I'M SORRY.

I KNOW YOU BOUGHT IT FOR ME, MOM, BUT I JUST CAN'T USE IT, UNDER-STAND?

AH! UH! ER! ACK!!

*KTAK

PSST! DEPUTY CHIEF, SIR... THOSE TV GUYS ARE HERE.

DAMN, THESE BLOODY PHONE HACKERS WHAT CAN WE DO?

NO, NO, NO!!

GEE, WERE YOU, LIKE, TALKING TO A PICTURE FRAME JUST NOW?

POLICE

MY KNEES ARE FREEZING!

TOO SHORT, TOO SHORT!

POLICE

HYOGO KEN POLICE DEPT.

POLICE

I'M PARKING NEXT TO *YOU*, BIG BOY!

OOH! IT'S THE FIRST BATTALION COMMAND VEHICLE!

兵庫県 警察本署

WOW...!

*sign HYOGO PREFECTJRAL PO ICE HEADQUARTERS

HRRMPH!

→koff←
→koff←

DAMN.. I'M ALL TENSE..

*FX BRRIINNGG CHAK

WHO WANTS TA KNOW?

HUH?

EXCUSE ME--WHERE IS THE NEXT-GENERATION TANK SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING?

*FWAP /10

*FWAP /10

YOU A POLICE SERGEANT? GIMME A BREAK.

WELL... er...I'M SUPPOSED TO ATTEND...

S-SUPER-INTENDENT SAKURA?!

POLICE SERGEANT OZAKI?!

I'LL GIVE YOU A BROKEN NOSE, YOU FLEA-BITTEN FLOOZIE!!

MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO STOP READING MAGAZINES AND DO YOUR JOB FOR A CHANGE!

*FX TEE HEE

SO SORRY.

OH, I SEE. SHE'S JUST A SUBSTITUTE. I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS WEIRD!

SHE'S HERE FILLING IN FOR INSPECTOR BRENTEN FROM THE NEWPORT STATION.

SORRY I'M LATE, SERGEANT.

!! OWW! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

*FWAK

HEY!

I AM NOT THE SAME AS THAT!

NOW, NOW, SERGEANT... WE'RE ALL THE SAME HERE, ALL POLICE OFFICERS. TRY TO GET ALONG.

DIE BITCH!

EEK!! LOOK, LOOK! HE'S TALKING TO THAT THING!!

WHA-?!

...COW!

STOP WALKING AROUND WITH YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS, YOU...YOU...

ER... I'M SORRY, MA'AM!!

COME ON, SERGEANT. I WANT TO BE SEATED BEFORE THE POLICE COMMISSIONER ARRIVES.

SHE SAID WHAT?!

次期警察戦車 企画書
佐川兵装
ハマー4型 多砲
次期警察戦車 企画書
剣菱重工
[ボナパルト九→十
改良部 設明書]
LEAVING AN AMPLE BUDGET SURPLUS TO BE DIVERTED TO WELFARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES!
HAH!
...SO AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR PRICES ARE *VERY* REASONABLE.
...*"NINJA FOOT* DRIVE" FOR CRUCIAL OPERATIONS AFTER BEDDY-BYE' YES, GENTLEMEN, THE BONAPARTE BARGAIN JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!
MOREOVER, TO ANSWER CONCERNS ABOUT BONAPARTE'S TRACK NOISE, WE NOW ADD TO OUR EXISTING LINE-UP OF "TIP-TOE DRIVE" AND "GENTLE ON MOTHER EARTH DRIVE" THE BRAND-NEW...
OH, YEAH?
ZOOM
POLICE
REALLY...? YOU KNOW WHAT I HEARD? SOME CORPORATE SLIME HAS BEEN SELLING CUSTOM-MADE AIRCRAFT TO CRIMINALS, EH?!
OUR *HAMMER* TANK WOULD HAVE BLOWN THAT SCUM TO BITS.
BARGAIN?! *WHAT* BARGAIN, EH? YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE, KENBITSU. HECK, JUST YESTERDAY YOUR PRECIOUS BONAPARTE HIT URUSHI-MARU DEAD CENTER AND *STILL* COULDN'T BRING HIM DOWN!
GEE, WHIZ!
POLICE

POLICE SERGEANT OZAKI?

GENTLEMEN, GENTLEMEN. IF YOU HAVE NO OTHER SALES POINTS TO PRESENT, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE VIEW FROM THE FRONT LINES.

NOW THAT THE BACTERIA CLOUDS ARE GONE, IT'S THE AGE OF FLIGHT, KENBITSU! AND YOU'RE STILL FIDDLING WITH AN OBSOLETE JUNKER THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN *UPDATE* ANYMORE!

SOUNDS LIKE THE PATHETIC WHIMPERING OF A COMPANY THAT CAN'T EVEN ***DESIGN*** DECENT AIRPLANES.

TRUE, THEY MAY BE OBSOLETE, IF YOUR ONLY GOAL IS TO PULVERIZE AND SLAUGHTER... BUT THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE THE ***HAMMER*** PHILOSOPHY!

ARE YOU CALLING OUR BONAPARTE SERIES ***OBSOLETE JUNK,*** SAGAWA?!

THAT ***IS*** YOUR NAME, ISN'T IT?

ME?! YOU MEAN ME?! ***ME?!***

SIR?!

CLUNK!

Eh?

I WANT TO HEAR YOUR ***ASSESSMENT,*** NOT YOUR REQUESTS!

THAT'S ***NOT*** WHAT I'M ASKING, SERGEANT.

DAMN, WHAT A USELESS FOOL...

...WE NEED TO CONSIDER IMPROVING RESPONSE TIME, STRENGTHENING PERFORMANCE AT MIDDLE AND SLOW SPEEDS, REDUCING ACTUAL MECHANICAL NOISE RATHER THAN TREAD NOI--

I, UH... I-I THINK MORE THAN FIREPOWER OR, UM, OR NOISE POLLUTION...

YES, YES, I SEE. WELL,THEN, I MUST TALK THIS OVER WITH THE BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND THE TANK POLICE BATTALION COMMANDER. THAT WILL BE ALL.

I, UH, WELL, SIR, WITHOUT ACTUALLY TESTING THEM IN THE FIELD --

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? YOU LOOK PALE.

POLICE SERGEANT LEONA OZAKI, THANK YOU FOR COMING.

I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

WELL, THEN, GENTLEMEN... WE'LL LET YOU KNOW TOMORROW.

HE SHOULD HAVE ASKED ME OR THE BATTALION COMMANDER. BUT YOU WERE RIGHT NOT TO COME DOWN ON EITHER SIDE.

"I ONLY DO WHAT THE BATTALION COMMANDER ORDERS, SIR" - OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I JUST CAN'T *STAND* MY OWN STUPIDITY. I ACTED LIKE A *COMPLETE* BABBLING IDIOT!

FUFUFU

*NRGG!

EEEEK!!!

*WHAM

?!

*SKRASSH

IT'S A LITTLE EARLY, BUT MY SCHEDULE REQUIRES ME TO TAKE LUNCH NOW. IF YOU NEED TO REPLACE THOSE TEN POUNDS, I CAN SHOW YOU THE CAFETERIA. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG?

ALL THE BETTER FOR FITTING IN YOUR TANK, RIGHT? Ha Ha...

GEEZ...I MUST HAVE LOST TEN POUNDS IN THERE, I SWEAR.

PROBABLY...

IT'S JUST THAT I'M NOT USED TO EATING ALONE, SO I--

NO, NO, THE TANK SELECTION PROCESS IS FINISHED.

IS IT PART OF MY ASSIGNMENT?

I KIND OF WANTED TO HURRY BACK...

GOOD LORD, ASSISTANT INSPECTOR KATSURA! DROPPING THINGS IN THE HALLS *AGAIN?!* ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

EEWW... IT'S THAT STUCK-UP BITCH...

I...I'M SORRY, SIR! I'M *SO* EMBARRASSED...

OH, DEAR...

...BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

I'M SEEING IT WITH MY OWN EYES...

*OOG!

NO, IT CAN'T BE! IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ACTING OUT A SCENE FROM AN OLD B-MOVIE... AND THEY'RE SERIOUS...?!

LOOK, SUPER-INTENDENT... I'D BETTER GET GOING.

THIS IS JUST TOO STUPID-- COUNT ME OUT.

AND DON'T FORGET...STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL HAVE TO WORK WITH YOU *VERY* CLOSELY FOR OUR SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE NEXT GENERATION *AFV* SELECTION PROCESS, *tee hee.* I DO HOPE YOU'LL BE... *AVAILABLE.*

OH, DO TAKE A COPY, SIR!

AH! THE LATEST ISSUE?

SHOO! SCAT!

AH, YES. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

JP通信

*magazine JP NEWS APR L, SPECIAL REPORT
THE GROWING LANGUAGE PROBLEM

WHAT AM I? A TEMPORARY TIRE PATCH OR SOME-THING?!

"I'M NOT USED TO EATING ALONE," HUH?! *JERK!*

ARRGG!!

JUST WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING, SERGEANT?

*FWAP

REPORT

DAMN IT ALL!

GET BACK TO YOUR UNIT, SERGEANT.

HUP! HUP!

I...WHY, JUST EXERCISING MY ARM, SIR! S-SEE?!

POLICE

AH?!

? YOO-HOO, STUDIO! CAN YOU HEAR ME?

OK!

SHEESH...THE SERGEANT'S SURE TAKING HER TIME GETTING BACK. I WONDER IF SHE'S GOOFING OFF SOME-WHERE...

AND YOU KNOW WHAT?! NO OTHER POLICE STATION IN THE COUNTRY HAS *SO* MANY DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES ON STAFF!

Er...HI, FOLKS! RIGHT NOW I'M HERE AT THE NEWPORT POLICE STATION IN HYOGO!

WANTED

?

22

HEY, THE TV CREW'S HERE

ME?!

YO, SHINOZAKI-- YOU GOT A VISITOR.

HEY, ANYONE GOING ON PATROL?

I GOT NUTHIN' TO DO AN' I'M *BOOOORED!!*

SO WE'VE ASKED ASSISTANT CHIEF *CHONGUL* TO SHOW US AROUND THE STATION!

MY PLEASURE, MISS.

IF YOU JOINED UP LOOKING FOR EXCITEMENT, THEN FIND ANOTHER JOB!

IDIOT! IT'S BETTER QUIET.

GEEZ! ISN'T THERE SOMETHING LIKE, *REALLY* SUPER-DUPER *EXCITING* HAPPENING ANY-WHERE...?!

SURE. JUST TAKE A BEEPER.

EXCUSE ME, SIR. MAY I STEP OUT FOR A FEW MINUTES?

POLICE

AT FIRST GLANCE, I'D SAY IT'S THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF INADEQUATE PARENTAL DISCIPLINE.

OH, MY GOODNESS! WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, SIR?!

GOD *DAMN!* LEMME *GO*, YOU SCUMBAG PIGS!

HEY, YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD!

WHOA!

IT'S *YOU!* LONG TIME, NO SEE, BUDDY!

*poster JOIN US

HAW HAW HAW! CAN'T HELP YOU THERE, PAL. THAT STUFF'S ***UNTOUCHABLE***. TAKE YOUR DRIVER'S-ED COURSES LIKE A GOOD BOY, FIGURE YOU GOT A PAID VACATION, AND HAVE THEM SHIFT YOU OVER TO OFFICE WORK OR SOMETHING.

WELL, UH... ACTUALLY, LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT BUSINESS. I KIND OF GOT WRITTEN UP FOR OVER-LOADING MY TRUCK. NINETY-DAY SUSPENSION. I WAS THINKIN' MAYBE I SHOULD... er... ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...

SO HOW'S BUSINESS? UP TO YOUR NECK AS USUAL?

YEAH, WELL, YA KNOW.

SO WHAT'S UP? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN COMING TO MARTIAL-ARTS PRACTICE.

That's how they handle it in this world

SO?! THERE'S GOTTA BE ***SOME-THING*** YOU CAN DO!

LOOK... FIRST OFF, WHEN THEY CUT THE TICKET IT GOES STRAIGHT INTO THE COMPUTER...

I'M ***BEGGING*** YA, MAN. MY DICK IS REALLY ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK HERE-- YOU ***GOTTA*** HELP ME!!

*FX RRG!

THEY'LL HIRE SOME CHEAP SCAB, AND I'M GONNA BE OUT ON MY ASS! ***THAT'S*** WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!!

THERE HE GOES, HA-HA...

OH, MY!

*POW!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, MAN?! WE'RE NOT ON THE GOVERNMENT TIT! IT'S NOT SOME BIG-ASS COMPANY! THEY AIN'T GONNA DO ***SHIT*** FOR ME!

YOU... YOU'RE ***REALLY*** ASKING ME TO DO IT?!

*FX WHAK WHAK WHAK WHAK

ボコボコ

BASTARD!

I GOTTA GET GOING NOW, OKAY?

OKAY, I'M COUNTING ON YOU, OLD BUDDY!

B-B-BUT...

LOOK, WE'RE NOT THAT KIND OF SHOW, GIRL! LET'S GO!

HEY!! JUST ONE GOD-DAMN ***SECOND***, PAL!

I'M SURE YOU CAN THINK OF SOME-THING.

LOOK... I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DO THIS FOR FREE...

*SHP

ME, I GOT A FAMILY! I CAN'T ***AFFORD*** TO LOSE MY JOB!

JEEZUZ, PIPE DOWN, WILLYA?! LOOK, MAN--IT'S NOT LIKE I MURDERED SOMEBODY, HEY? YOU GOT IT EASY, PAL!

AIEE!

*FX YARGH!

I DON'T TAKE BRIBES OR FIX TICKETS!

HUH?

I AM AN OFFICER OF THE ***LAW!***

YOU STUPID MORON!

ALL THE OTHER TRUCK DRIVERS ARE DOING THE SAME DAMN THING, AND THE WORLD'S STILL TURNING! WHERE ARE ALL THE DAMN ACCIDENTS, eh?! HOW COME ***I'M*** THE ONLY GUY WHO HAS TO GET STOMPED?!

YOU LISTEN TO ME, BUDDY!! IF EVERYONE WENT AROUND DOING WHATEVER THE HELL THEY WANTED, THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD GO TO POT, RIGHT?! ***UNDER-STAND?!***

STUPID, DUMB-ASS LAWS!! A BUNCH OF CRAP WRITTEN BY ASSHOLES WHO NEVER DROVE A TRUCK IN THEIR STINKIN' ***LIVES!*** HOW COME YOU GODDAMN PIGS ***ALWAYS*** PICK ON THE LITTLE GUY?!

OH, YEAH?! THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU GODDAMN WELL OBEY THE GODDAMN LAW, eh ?! RULES ARE RULES! ***PERIOD!***

*I think he's wrong.

*FX TMP TMP TMP TMP

HEE, HEE! LEAVE IT TO ANNA!

HEY?! FIGHTING?!

HIT HIM WITH ANOTHER!

THE STUN CHARGE WORE OFF!

I WISH YOU HADN'T IN THE FIRST PLACE!

I'M NEVER TALKING TO YOU AGAIN!

THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES!

STUFF THE RULES!

GYARGG!

GEEZ, WHAT A RACKET.

GET 'IM!

YARG!

POLICE

HEY! DAT HOIT!!

*WHUOD

HYAARG!

NAIL 'IM, ANNA!

YEAH! STOMP 'IM!

WHUT DA HECK?!

GET HIM NOW!

Ooh, THAT TINGLES

YO THERE, BUD... YOU'VE BEEN WORKING THOSE TRICEPS, HUH?

*KA-WHAMM

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND!

AAIEE!!

*F.X. POP BAM POW POW POW

NO PROBLEM, MISS. THAT'S NOT A HUMAN POLICE OFFICER. THAT'S AN *ANDROID*. JUST THINK OF IT AS A HOME APPLIANCE THAT'S HAD A SHORT CIRCUIT.

THANK GOD HE'S DOWN AT LAST

UM, DEPUTY CHIEF, SIR? ISN'T SHE OVERDOING IT?

COOL!

ばばばば

NYA HA HA HA! C'MON--LET'S SEE THEM TRICEPS AGAIN! BLACKED OUT, DIDJA?! TAKE *THAT!* AND ANOTHER! AN' ANOTHER! ANOTHER! DITTO AND MORE OF THE SAME!

ばばばばばばばば

....

WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING... NOTHING AT ALL.

FWMP

Sigh

HE WAS IN A BRAWL DOWN IN MOTO-MACHI.

SO WHO THE HELL IS HE, ANY-WAY?

DIDJA SEE THAT? HAH! WIMPY OL' HUMANS CAN'T EVEN TAKE *ONE* GOOD PUNCH!

UM, ANNA, I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH...

*VRM888

SKREEK

??

MM?

*sign NEWPORT POLICE STATION OR BUST

WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING HERE, POLICE SERGEANT LEONA OZAKI?

I'LL DRIVE YOU TO YOUR STATION. HOP IN.

MY BIKE HAD A LITTLE "ACCIDENT." FLAT TIRE.

*FX HAHAHA

HEY?!

COME, COME-- THINK OF IT AS YOUR SMALL REVENGE.

NO THANK YOU. IF I DO THAT, THE NEXT TIME I WON'T GET AWAY WITH JUST A *FLAT.*

!

I'VE HEARD THAT SO MANY TIMES IT'S GETTING OLD.

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT PICK-UPS...

*FX HEHHEH

COMING, SIR! HEE HEE

LET'S GET GOING, SER-GEANT!

SHE'LL STINK UP THE PASSENGER'S SEAT!

WHY IS THAT LITTLE *COW* GETTING INTO SUPERINTENDENT SAKURA'S CAR?!

YOU'RE H-HURTING ME, MA'AM...

WHY?! WHY?!!

*HMM... **NOW** I UNDERSTAND WHY THEY RECRUIT WOMAN OFFICERS THREE TIMES A YEAR, BUT OUR NUMBERS NEVER SEEM TO GO UP*

I SEE, SIR.

DON'T THINK BADLY OF THEM. THEY GET PROMOTED FAST, THEY GET REASSIGNED OFTEN. THEY'RE ALL AFRAID THEY'LL GET TOO OLD AND MISS THEIR CHANCE AT MARRIAGE.

IT'S THAT "SMOOTH-TALK EVERYBODY" HABIT OF YOURS THAT DRIVES THEM CRAZY, SAKURA.

I GUESS SO.

YOU KNOW, THERE AREN'T MANY FEMALE OFFICERS WITH YOUR STRING OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

YOU *DON'T!*

OOH, *LOOKY!* I'M ON *TV!* SO WHEN DO I GET PAID?!

THAT'S JUST GREAT--OUR THANKS TO EVERYONE AT NEWPORT STATION!

MAYBE ON FOOD WHEEL-THING.

I'M SURE I'VE SEEN THIS OUT BEFORE.

Z" Z" Z"

SHMP-SHMP

SCRAPE

DAMN DOOR!

KRAK

...AND SO HERE'S A BIG, FIVE-HUNDRED-DOLLAR DONATION FROM ALL THE *WONDERFUL* MEN AND WOMEN AT NEWPORT STATION! BACK TO YOU, DAVE!

AND NOW FOR A SHORT COMMERCIAL BREAK...

Umm, YES, AND, uh, THAT'S ALL FROM, uh, NEWPORT STATION! OVER!

Uh, I, uh...

WHO? WHAT?

WHY, YES! I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS AN OFFICER!

SAY! THAT FELLOW IN THE WHEELCHAIR-- DIDN'T WE SEE HIM FIRST THING THIS MORNING?

SO *GO!* GO, GO!

SHOO! SCAT!

ER... I GOTTA TAKE OFF NOW, SO...

AH, HABANA, OL' BUDDY, OL' PAL-- THANKS FOR GETTING OUR LOGO ON SCREEN.

....

SO CAN THIS ROUND OF YOURS REALLY DO ENOUGH DAMAGE? EVEN IF IT DOESN'T PENETRATE?!

HEY, HABANA! JUST NOW ON TV...

WAAH! I'M SORRY..

WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?!* CAN'T YOU EVEN *SIGN OFF* RIGHT? DO THAT AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE READING PORK-BELLY FUTURES AT 3 A.M.!

DROP BY *ANY* TIME.

NO PROBLEM, GENTLEMEN, NONE AT ALL.

NOW DUTY CALLS, AND WE MUST AWAY!

SORRY TO HAVE DROPPED BY UNANNOUNCED LIKE THIS, SIR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND YOUR GENEROUS TOUR OF THE FACILITIES!

SAGAWA ARMAMENTS

POLICE

POLICE

POLICE

*FX CHG CHG CHG CHG CHG CHG

SHEE-IT, DON'T ASK ME.

DAMN THAT URUSHI-MARU! WHERE THE HELL COULD HE BE HIDING?!

*FX CHG CHG CHG CHG CHG CHG

HE DRAGGED HIS ASS BACK INTO JAPAN LATE LAST NIGHT. SO TODAY, I SEE HIS UGLY MUG FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FIVE YEARS.

*FFHHH

COULDN'T MEET HIM IF I DIDN'T HAVE ONE, GENIUS!

GEE, CAPTAIN... YOU HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER?

I HAD NO IDEA..

I'VE GOTTA STOP OFF AT MOTO-MACHI* FOR A FEW MINUTES FIRST. I'M HOOKING UP WITH MY LITTLE BROTHER.

HEY, AREN'T YOU GOING BACK TO THE STATION WITH US?

*Usually refers to the shopping district, but here Brenten is referring to the train station

STRICTLY PER-SONAL. SEE? I CAN DO IT MYSELF.

GOT A REAL ATTITUDE PROBLEM, MY LITTLE BRO. WHEN HE BLOWS UP, THERE'S NO STOPPING HIM... SO IF HE GETS INTO A FIGHT AND THEY BRING HIM IN, MY REP IS SHOT. BETTER TO CATCH HIM AT THE TRAIN STATION BEFORE HE CAN GET INTO ANY TROUBLE, HEY?

NO PROBLEMO, PAL. MY BRO'S A SIX-FOOT-TEN, THREE-HUNDRED-POUND PRO WRESTLER! BESIDES, *I'LL* BE IN A TANK, RIGHT?

POLICE

LOTTA PEOPLE IN MOTO-MACHI THIS TIME OF DAY. WANT ME TO HELP YOU LOOK FOR HIM?

POLICE

HUH?!

FRG!

IDIOT! JERK!! DUMB-ASS!

CAPTAIN BRENTEN!! HOW DARE YOU SEND ME TO THAT STINKING *SNAKE PIT!!*

HEY... "SNAKE PIT" IS A BIT *MUCH*...

HEY... WASN'T THAT BATTALION SUPERINTENDENT SAKURA SHE WAS RIDING WITH?

GOD *DAMN!* LIKE THEY SAY KIDS NEVER APPRECIATE THEIR PARENTS.

LOOKS LIKE YOU BETTER NOT RECOMMEND HER TO *HQ* FOR PROMOTION, HUH?

*FX YAWWNN

HEY, WE *ALL* RUN ON ELECTRICITY, ASADA!

OH, WOW! AN ANDROIDAL ELEC-TRICAL YAWN!*

*SKRITCH SKRITCH

DON'T BE AN IDIOT! LET HIM GO!

WAAH! I'M SORRY!

I'M GONNA *KILL* YOU!

YOU STUPID BASTARD! IF YOU'D ONLY BEEN WATCHING WHERE YOU WERE DRIVING, OUR LITTLE BOY WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!

HEY!! STOP IT!

NOT RAW! LAW! *L-A-W!*

NO NEEDTO SHOUT, SONNY!

RAW? WHAT WAS RAW?

PUTTING THINGS IN YOUR BAG WITHOUT PAYING FOR THEM IS *AGAINST--THE--LAW!*

HUH?

LOOK-- I'M TELLING YOU IT'S A *CRIME*, GOT IT?

THOSE GUYS ARE NUTS.

*FX KOFF KOFF

CHECK IN WITH LIEUTENANT BRENTEN. IF THEY'RE ABOUT TO WRAP THINGS UP OUT THERE, PUT THREE BONAPARTES ON STANDBY. I WANT US READY TO MOVE OUT AS SOON AS SERGEANT LEONA GETS BACK.

...

YES, SIR?!

SHINO-ZAKI!

POLICE

*binder MONTHLY WIRETAPPER LIFE, ORIGINAL BINDER

*Electric Yawn They're just chatting, so please don't make a fuss over what kind of neural transmitters Anna has or CPU magnetic fields or all that stuff Out here in the inscrutable Orient, we've said for ages that people are made of ki (energy), chi (blood), and niku (flesh) So when you consider that there are traces—tiny to be sure—of iron in our blood, then you could start speculating about the electrical properties of the metallic "net" of our circulatory system, or the electrical characteristics that might emerge in a machine intelligence with electrons interacting inside the "net" of its electronic brain But, hey there are lots of better ways to kill time, don't you think?

*FX GLANCE

YES, SIR. BUT WHAT ABOUT... You know who..

DELIVERY AT TWO THIS AFTERNOON, SIXTEEN ROUNDS EACH. DATE IT TODAY. SAY IT'S FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO URUSHI-MARU.

ASADA! I WANT YOU TO DO UP REQUISITION FORMS FOR SIXTEEN *HEAT* ROUNDS, PLUS PERMISSION FORMS FOR DEPLOYING WITH THEM ON BOARD AND USING THEM IF NECESSARY.

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, BOSS-MAN!

BUT ANYWAY, THIS IS GREAT! MY FIRST JOB! *COOL!*

CAN'T YOU CALL ME "PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ANNA"...?

Hmph! GEE WHIZ!

HEY, YOU, *COPCAT!* HAVE ASADA SHOW YOU HOW TO DO THE PAPER-WORK.

OH, YEAH--CAN YOU LOAD UP SOME OF THOSE "STICKER" ROUNDS, THE ONES WITH THE RADIO TRACKERS? TWO PER TANK, IN THE RESERVE MAGS. THANKS, BUDDY.

HELLO, IS THIS THE SHOP FOREMAN? HABANA HERE. SHINOZAKI'S HEADING DOWN THERE NOW, ON STANDBY. HELP HIM OUT, WOULD YOU?

UH, Y'KNOW, ANNA...YOU SMELL LIKE SOAP. *NICE* SOAP, BUT...

HEY!

ALL RIGHT! LET ME AT 'EM!

*FWAP

I DUNNO... IT'S A *LITTLE*... WAIT, I KNOW-- I'LL GIVE YOU SOME PERFUME, OKAY?

YOU LIKE IT?! DIDN'T THINK I SHOULD COME IN SMELLING LIKE THE DUMPSTER, SO I WASHED UP IN A PARK FOUNTAIN!

WHO ON EARTH PROGRAMMED THAT DITZ?

GEEZ, IT'S JUST SOME FREE SAMPLES I GOT IN THE MAIL! DON'T GET SO WORKED UP, OKAY?

YAHOO! LADY LUCK SMILE ON ANNA!

*FX VREE VREEE

HEY, I GET IT! THE SUPER'S "MISTER MONEYBAGS," RIGHT?

YES, SIR!

ASADA! I'LL BE UP AT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE LETTING HIM KNOW ABOUT OUR *HEAT* REQUEST. BRING UP THOSE FORMS AS SOON AS THEY'RE READY.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE OLD SAYING, "A POLICEMAN CAN'T DRINK STOLEN WATER... EVEN FROM A BOTTOMLESS WELL"...?

SHEESH, WHAT A WASTE. BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS, YOU KNOW.

SO WHY DON'T WE JUST USE THAT COOL STUFF DOWN IN THE WAREHOUSE? I MEAN, WHAT'S THE DIFF?

'CAUSE WE'RE ON STANDBY, RIGHT?

WELL, AT LEAST *NOW* WE ARE.

SO OUR PLATOON'S IN CHARGE OF RUSTLING UP AMMO?

I SEE, I SEE

*KCHAK

TOHO

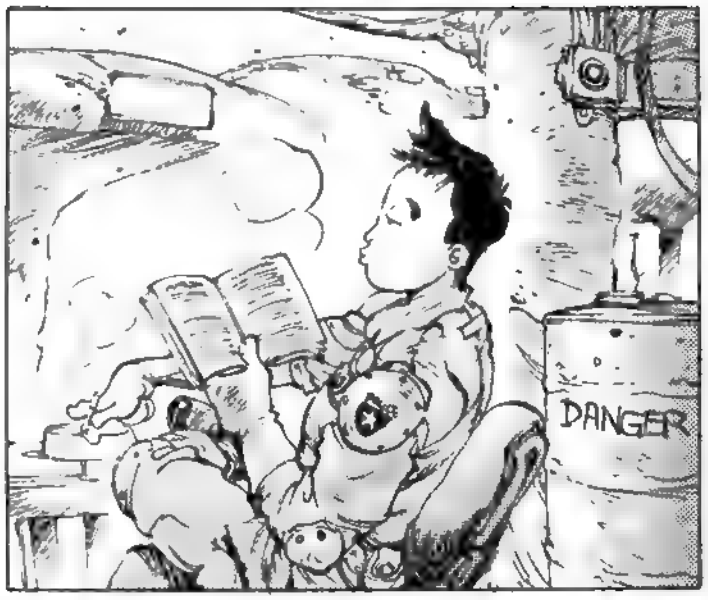
OKAY. WE'LL BE CAREFUL.

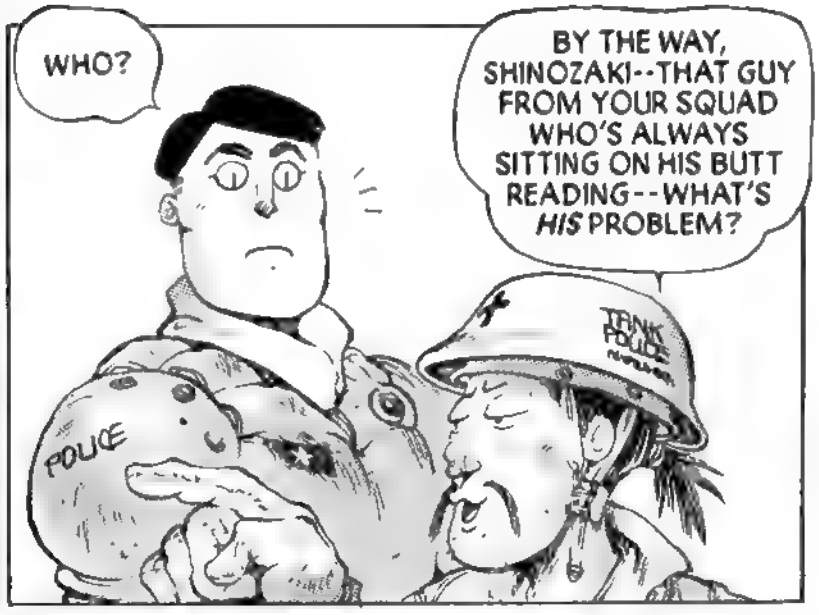
YOU ONLY GOT ENOUGH THERMAL TRANSFER FOR THE MOVING PARTS, OKAY? THE TREAD ASSEMBLY'S GOT TO STAY COLD...

ZREEE

POLICE

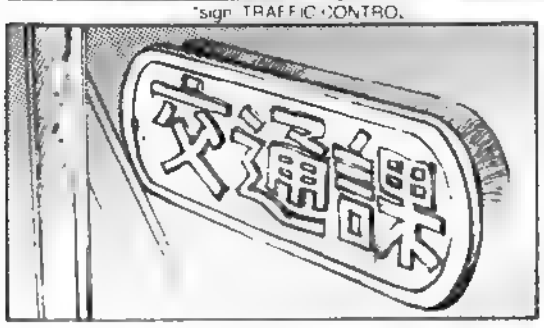
*sign SAFETY FIRST

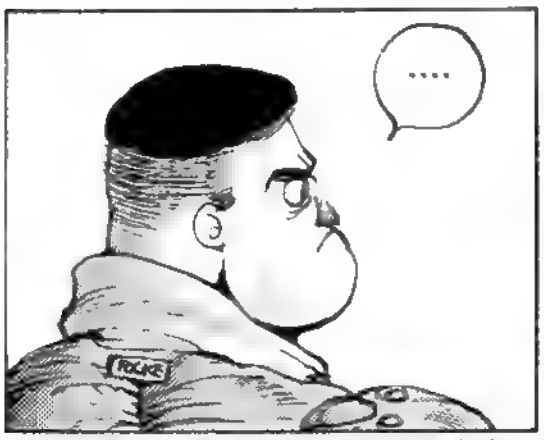


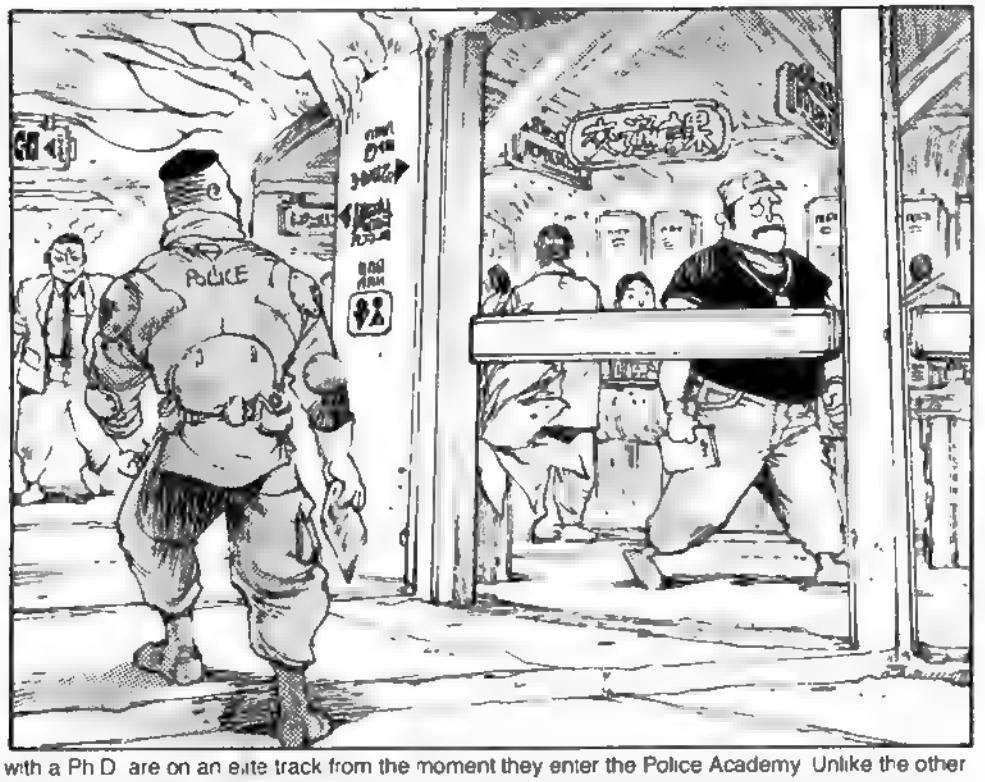

WHO?
BY THE WAY, SHINOZAKI--THAT GUY FROM YOUR SQUAD WHO'S ALWAYS SITTING ON HIS BUTT READING--WHAT'S *HIS* PROBLEM?
POUCE
TOKYO POLICE

NO SHIT?! JESUS, HE *LOOKS* LIKE A RETARD. WELL, GUESS WE BETTER BE NICE TO HIM WHILE WE GOT THE CHANCE, HUH? HE'LL BE RATING OUR JOB PERFORMANCE IN A FEW MORE YEARS. CRAZY.
OH, *SHIMIZU*...? HE'S A "ONE-MONTHER"* ... HAS A Ph.D. AND EVERYTHING.
TOKYO POLICE

ANYTHING YOU SAY, SIR. WELL, I MUST RETURN TO DUTY AT MY DESK. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION, SIR!
YOU COPPERS SURE LIKE TO STICK WITH YOUR OLD SYSTEMS. WEIRD SHIT.







*sign: TRAFFIC CONTROL

*One-Monther: In this world, officers who join the force with a Ph.D. are on an elite track from the moment they enter the Police Academy. Unlike the other characters in this story, Shimizu will move on to a different unit in a month. He's a prime candidate for "highfalutin' pencil pusher" and is therefore being shuffled from unit to unit to raise his experience quotient (on paper at least). In time, he's going to be an HQ bigwig. "One-Monthers" shoot up the ladder much faster than high-school and college graduates. Still, one wonders if there's really a correlation between an academic resume and what it takes to be a good cop. What do I think? Hmmm.

*FX GRAB

WHAT?! I'M NOT--WHOA! W-WAIT A MINUTE!

NOW, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A PEEPING TOM, CORPORAL! IF YOU SEE A GIRL YOU LIKE, YOU'VE GOT TO *GO FOR IT!*

CLU.

POLICE

*KLUD

*WAP

MY *GOODNESS!* IF IT ISN'T YOUNG SHINOZAKI FROM THE TANK POLICE!

POLICE

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL! NO, REALLY! I... I'M HERE FOR--

NOW DON'T YOU GO GETTING ALL SHY ON ME, YOUNG MAN! SO--WHAT KIND OF GIRL DO YOU LIKE?!

I'M LOOKING, I'M LOOKING! HE'S, LIKE, A HUNK OF RAGING HORMONES! I THOUGHT THAT WAS *YOUR* TYPE, RERIKA...NO?

OH, *GROSS!* HE'S A *TANK JOCK!* THOSE "MUSCLE-MEN" TYPES ARE *SUCH* DWEEBS... I'D *DIE* IF HE ASKED ME OUT! LIKE, JUST *LOOK* AT HIM, SUZUNA!

OOH, *LOOK*, MAKINA! POLICE INSPECTOR TOTATE'S CAUGHT ANOTHER ONE!

TONDA

ANGA

10

TIME TO GO OUT ON PATROL!

YES, *MA'AM!!*

OH! YOU MEAN YOU REALLY *DID* HAVE OFFICIAL BUSINESS HERE? BUT OFFICER SHINOZAKI WE HAVE A LOT OF WONDERFUL, *AVAILABLE* YOUNG LADIES IN TRAFFIC CONTROL! SO TELL ME--WHAT'S YOUR TYPE, MM? WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE ACTRESS? OH, I'VE GOT IT! I KNOW *JUST* THE *PERFECT* GIRL. DON'T YOU WORRY, NOW--LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!

SOMEBODY, HELP ME!

AIEE

LET ME SEE!

EEEK! WHAT IS IT? WHERE IS HE?!

OH, MY GAWD! *LOOK!!* IT'S FLASH E-MAIL FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT SAKURA FAN CLUB!

THEY WANT US TO "REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS IMMEDIATELY"...!

WAIT A SEC!! LOOK AT THIS--"HUMAN GARBAGE BAG LEONA OZAKI REPORTED TO BE SLIMING UP HIS PASSENGER SEAT"...?!

UM..."THE SUPERINTENDENT IS CURRENTLY..." ALL *RIGHT!* HE'S COMING *HERE!!* OH GAWD--I CAN'T *BELIEVE IT!*

*FX GRRR!

IT SEEMS HE FLIES QUITE A TOUGH AIR-PLANE.

YOU KNOW-- I WAS JUST LOOKING OVER YOUR REPORT ON THE URUSHI-MARU INCIDENT.

*FX VREEEE

SUPERINTENDENT CHONGUL... MAY I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, SIR?

YES?

SIR?

IT'S A GOOD THING YOU *DIDN'T* BRING HIM DOWN, CORPORAL.

*GSHH

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT, SIR. ARMOR-PIERCING MIGHT GO RIGHT THROUGH IT, CAUSE COLLATERAL DAMAGE. BUT IF WE DON'T GET HIM SOON, THERE MAY BE COPYCATS. FOR THAT REASON, WE NEED A SHELL THAT CAN BRING HIM DOWN WITHOUT--

REVISE IT, EH? AND THEN WHAT?

I... I WILL REVISE MY REQUEST, SIR!

*FX VREEEE

NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY HE ALWAYS FLIES LOW OVER RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS WHEN HE'S MAKING HIS ESCAPE?

EVEN A RUBBER BULLET COULD BE DEADLY IF IT STRUCK A CIVILIAN AFTER FALLING THREE HUNDRED FEET... SO HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE CONSE-QUENCES OF A SOLIDLY BUILT AIRPLANE LIKE THAT CRASHING ON A CROWDED CITY STREET?

*book rules and regulations

GOOD ENOUGH. NOW-- I'LL AUTHORIZE YOU TO DEPLOY AND USE THREE ROUNDS ONLY. BRING ME THE REQUEST FORMS *ASAP*.

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY FOR MYSELF, SIR. I HAD NOT FULLY CONSIDERED... I... I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON.

*F-X TAK TAK TAK

AM I WRONG? WELL?

YOU CAME TO SEE ME BECAUSE YOU WANT TO USE SOME FORM OF EXPLOSIVE SHELL, DID YOU NOT? LISTEN, CORPORAL--WHAT MATTERS ISN'T THE ***KIND*** OF SHELL YOU USE, BUT ***WHEN*** YOU USE IT.

BUT I EXPECT YOU TO LIVE UP TO THE TRUST I'M PUTTING IN YOU, CORPORAL HABANA!

THE AIR POLICE CAN'T SHOOT HIM DOWN EITHER, AND I DON'T WANT US TO MISS ANOTHER CHANCE FOR THE SAME REASON.

WHAT?! BUT... SIR...

NGRR!

HEY, THERE, BOSS-MAN! GOT THE FORMS ALL DONE, SO YOU GOTTA GIVE 'EM THE OLD STAMP O' APPROVAL!

WHOA! *WHOA!!*

AHHH! WAIT!

REMEMBER--YOU'RE NOT IN THE ***SDF*** ANYMORE, CHONGUL. JUST GET THINGS DONE EFFICIENTLY. RANK DOESN'T MATTER, REMEMBER THAT. ENDURE... ENDURE...

*THOK

I'M MAKING THIS ***NINE*** ROUNDS, HABANA!*

*HMPH

SIXTEEN ***HEAT*** ROUNDS? SINCE WHEN DID YOU GET SO GREEDY?!

*SKRITCH

MY HANDWRITING'S GREAT, HUH?! NOT LIKE YOU HUMANS, HUH?

OH, DEAR... THE SUPER'S FURIOUS!

I KNOW RANK AND ETIQUETTE DON'T MATTER TO MACHINES, BUT MAYBE I SHOULD TEACH IT ABOUT THEM ANYWAY? THANK GOD THE SUPERINTENDENT'S TAKING IT SO WELL...

NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Just so we all get this straight. Superintendent Chorgul is authorizing the purchase of nine rounds with permission to remove from inventory and actually use a total of only three rounds. For classification purposes, they refer to them as HEAT (High Explosive Anti-Tank) rounds. But in fact, the explosive rounds of this era are much more complex than those we use today. (Rather than being better tailored to the battlefield, they're simply more expensive examples of the "function bubble" effect: the addition of more and more unnecessary and expensive capabilities and technology, one of the hallmarks of home appliances turned out by Japanese companies during the 1990s economic bubble.)

*EX HO HO HO HA HA HA KOFF

YO, TOKU! HAVE YOU FINISHED THE FOUR-WAY ON THAT PANEL I GAVE YOU THIS MORNING?

OH? MAYBE I SHOULD STOP TAKING MY MEDICINE?

HAH-- THE WAKAYAMA HAPPY HEALTHY VILLAGE--TOO DANG EXPENSIVE, SONNY!

HEY, GRAMPS! IT SAYS HERE YOU GUYS ARE REPEAT OFFENDERS IN WAKAYAMA AND THAT YOU'RE ALL OUT ON SUSPENDED SENTENCES! WELL, I CAN'T HELP YOU NO MORE!

ろほ はは

はは ほろ~ほ

FIGHTING KIDS!

THANK YOU *SO MUCH* FOR ALL YOUR WORK!

*WHOOO

はぁ

SHEESH! I AM *SO* SORRY *I* PICKED IT UP INSTEAD OF *ANNA!*

WOW... YOU EVEN CALCULATED THE ESTIMATED STRENGTH OF HIS AIRCRAFT IF IT'S COMPLETELY BUILT FROM THIS MATERIAL.

*AH! AH!

あ あ う う

OH, YEAH... HERE IT IS. "HONEYCOMB COMPOSITE, BELIEVED TO BE PART OF THE EXTERNAL SHEETING ON URUSHI-MARU'S AIRPLANE"...

OH, YEAH--DID YOU HEAR? THEY SAY THEY'RE ORGANIZING A SECOND MOTOR-CYCLE UNIT AT HQ!

LIKE, IF THEY TRANSFERRED US TO *HQ*, WE COULD SEE SUPERINTENDENT SAKURA EVERY DAY...

HMM... YOU'D NEED A LOT OF EQUIPMENT TO REPAIR AND MAINTAIN THIS BABY... PLUS A RUNWAY, PARTS AND MATERIAL, FUEL...

FEMALE DRESSING ROOM

"LASER WELDING, OPTICAL FIBER STRESS SENSORS"... MAN, THIS THING'S A FLYING ROLLS-ROYCE!

IT'S SAGAWA ARMAMENTS-- IT *HAS* TO BE!!

GAK! IT'S THAT SLEAZOID ASSISTANT INSPECTOR MADARADABARA!

PERFECT TIMING, HONEYPIE!

WELL, HEY, HEY! IT'S MY LITTLE DARLIN' LEONA!

*HAR HAR HAR

OH, MAN, THIS REALLY *BITES.* AARGH!

Hrmm... A LIST OF NECESSARY MACHINE TOOLS FOR BUILDING THE RASCAL'S PLANE?! Hm, *hmmm!*

BY GOD, GIRLIE--THIS IS THE FINAL CLUE! BREAKS THE CASE WIDE OPEN!

HEY!

*GRR

SO THIS IS THE FORENSICS REPORT ON URUSHI-MARU, EH?! YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT TO US SOONER, LOVE!

I, uk... I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET A COPY RIGHT AWAY, SIR--

UP IN *S-3* WE DON'T TRUST THOSE MACHINES AS MUCH AS YOU FOLK DO, NOPE, NOT *US!*

DON'T MUCH LIKE IT THAT THE EVIDENCE CAME FROM THOSE ANDROID THINGUM-BOBS, THOUGH.

YES SIREE, KIDDO... THESE DOCUMENTS SHOULD LET US LOCATE HIS HIDEOUT FROM HIS PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY!

*FX HA HA

*FX WSHH

RRG!

WHADDYA THINK, HUH?!

GOOD PREMISE. THEN WHAT?

AND IF WE DON'T BELIEVE THEM, SAME PLAN. NO DOWN-SIDE, SIR. BUT WE OPERATE ON THE PREMISE SOME-ONE'S TRYING TO LEAD US ON.

IF WE BELIEVE THE ANDROIDS, WE TAKE OUT A SEARCH WARRANT *STAT.* SEARCH THE PLACE OR STAKE IT OUT.

FIRST WE GO FOR THEIR HIDEOUT, SIR. NAIL IT DOWN.

WAIT! SIR! THE REPORT! I STILL NEED--

THATTABOY! NOW *THAT'S* A PLAN! SO LET'S FIND THEIR HIDE-OUT FAST, YES? THINGS ARE GONNA GET BUSY AROUND HERE!

QUESTION ANYONE CONNECTED. NOTHING TURNS UP, WE LOOK FOR HINTS IN THE SEARCH RESULTS, OR WE GIVE THEM ROPE. WATCH 'EM. LET THEM HANG THEMSELVES.

WE GOT 'IM BY THE BALLS *NOW!*

BY DAMN!

YECCH!

YES SIREE, ALL OF US IN SECTION THREE THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, SWEET THING! GOOD SHOW, *DAMN* GOOD SHOW!

KOFF KOFF

DON'T YOU WORRY YOUR PRETTY LITTLE HEAD! WHEN WE FIND THEIR HIDE-OUT, WE'LL CALL IN THE TANK POLICE! HAR-HAR-HAR!

WE COME UP DRY, WE GOTTA NAIL DOWN SOMETHING, RIGHT, HONEY PIE?! YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, RIGHT?

!

AND WHEN WE GO IN ON THE SEARCH WARRANT, MAYBE YOU CAN BRING ALONG ONE OF THOSE NEW TRACKER TRANS-CEIVERS OF YOURS, HEY? JUST... EH... SORTA FORGET IT WHEN YOU LEAVE AGAIN, OKAY, TOOTS?

NGRR! STOP IT! CALM DOWN, LEONA... JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH! BE COOL!

I HATE THIS!

HI AGAIN!

KONGG

OWWIE! DAT HOITS!

AARGH! I CAN'T *STAND* IT! TODAY I GOT STOMPED ON, HARASSED, RIPPED OFF...!!

GOD DAMN IT!!

KRANGG WHANG KANG*

*WHRANGG KRASH KANGG

C'MON, GRAMPS-- GET THE LEAD OUT!

EYES LIKE AN EAGLE. HOW DOES HE DO IT?

IT SAYS "DYING FIGHTING ROOM."

WHAT'S THAT ROOM, SONNY? SOMETHING SPECIAL?

NCAA

SHIT SHIT SHIT!

WELL, I *DO* KNOW THIS MUCH-- THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN SAGAWA AND URUSHI-MARU.

BAM!

DON'T YOU GOT ELEVATORS, SONNY?

Hmmm... NOT GOOD ENOUGH. MAYBE IT'S BLACKMAIL-- URUSHI-MARU'S GOT SOMETHING ON SAGAWA...

I *FIGURED* IT WAS HER...

COULD URUSHI-MARU BE USING THEIR FACILITIES ON THE SLY? NO WAY-- IMPOSSIBLE. SO HE'S GOT A COLLABORATOR ON THE INSIDE...?

WHEW.... ANYWAY, WHY ON EARTH WOULD SAGAWA ARMAMENTS START RAIDING DEPARTMENT STORES?

*FX HEE HEE HEE

I FOUND IT IN THE SQUAD LEADER'S DESK DRAWER. "SECRETS OF THE POPULAR MANAGER: A COMPLETE MANUAL"...! IT'S, LIKE, A TOTAL *SCREAM!*

OH, YEAH?! I SUPPOSE THAT BOOK'S SOMETHING YOU'VE JUST *GOT* TO READ...?!

ME? NOTHING TO DO? NO *WAY!*

YES, SIR!

ASADA!

HEY, COPCAT! IF YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO, GO DOWN TO THE GARAGE AND LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THE TANKS!

uh oh

WHAT... DID YOU... SAY...?

AIEE!

HYAAA!

POLICE

Good boys and girls (bad ones too), please do not imitate Leona! Please do your best, okay?
Jade Shirow

Oh, RATS! I'M IN FOR IT NOW - I'M ANNA'S SUPERVISOR!

NOW I UNDERSTAND! SHE'S BEEN ACTING SO WEIRD BECAUSE OF THIS BOOK...!

SNOOPING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S DESKS IS A "SCREAM," IS IT?! YOU... YOU BATTERY-POWERED *BIMBO!!*

KLIK KLIK

YOWW! OWWIE! EEEK!!

TWIP

It hurts if you shoot your own foot by mistake, so refrain from placing your foot on what you shoot. It's also unnecessary to get this close.

GACK? "HARAKIRI"...?! LIKE, CUTTING YOUR BELLY OPEN?!

AIEE! OH, *NO!* I *KNEW* IT!!!

ASADA! FOR FAILING IN YOUR SUPERVISORY DUTIES-- *HARAKIRI!!*

"MS. NICE GUY"... B-BUT YOU ONLY... JUST ONE MORNING LECTURE...!?

NOW THAT YOU'VE SEEN THE BOOK, NO MORE "MS. NICE GUY" ...!!

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE WASTED BRAIN CELLS ON THAT "SUPPORTIVE MANAGEMENT" CRAP! *NOT* MY STYLE!

NOW WHAT'S HER PROBLEM?

POLICE

FX: HMPH

HABANA! REPORT!

THAT'S NOT VERY NICE!

FX: BLAM!!!

IT'S NOT *MY* FAULT--IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOT SUPERVISING ME BETTER. BESIDES, I DON'T EVEN HAVE MONEY TO FEED MYSELF, SO I CAN'T HELP YOU THERE!

MY VACATION TO KOREA! GONE!

SHE MEANS EMPTYING MY WALLET AND BUYING EVERYONE A BIG, EXPENSIVE DINNER! AN' IT'S ALL *YOUR* FAULT!

FX: WHUD

BUT YOUR MAGAZINE LOADING IS NO GOOD. TOO OPTIMISTIC.

SAYORI FOURTEENS... MISTER SETO AT AKAMATSU MUNITIONS RECOMMENDED THEM? GOOD ENOUGH."

ALL TANKS ON STANDBY FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT, SERGEANT!

Er... PURCHASING PERMIT FOR *SAYORI FOURTEENS,* NINE ROUNDS TOTAL. DEPLOYMENT PERMISSION, THREE ROUNDS. ESTIMATED DELIVERY TIME, 1400 HOURS.

WONDERFUL LIFE
The Burgess Shale and the Nature of History
STEPHEN JAY GOULD

THEN WHAT...?

URK!

Sayori Fourteen is the product name of the HEAT rounds Habana got the superintendent to sign off on earlier. A sayori is a kind of fish with a protruding lower jaw (I've heard bigger ones referred to as "can openers"), fishing season is from March to April. Let's assume other rounds have fish names as well for example, the Mackerel, the Dorado, the Bonito, the Lamprey.

I'LL DO IT AS SOON AS THE SI4s ARRIVE.

YEAH... YEAH! I SEE IT NOW.

BUT THE ENEMY'S IN AN *AIR-PLANE*. WE'LL PROBABLY ONLY GET ONE CRACK AT HIM. OKAY, WE'RE HEADING OUT ON COMBAT PATROL. LOAD T-31 WITH A SAYORI FOURTEEN UP THE SPOUT, THEN A TRANSMITTER ROUND ON TOP OF THE MAG. T-32 HAS A TRANSMITTER ROUND IN THE CHAMBER, THEN A STUN ROUND. T-33 TAKES A STUN ROUND IN THE CHAMBER, A SAYORI IN BACK-UP.

GOT IT?

YOU'VE PLANNED FOR A SAYORI FOURTEEN AS THE FIRST ROUND, FOLLOWED BY A LONG-RANGE TRACKING ROUND. YOU'RE ASSUMING WE'LL BE WIDELY DISPERSED.*

TMP TMP TMP TMP TMP

THAT IDIOT-- I BET HE'S GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO TROUBLE.

Hm? POLICE INSPECTOR TOTATE?! AND SHINOZAKI?!

どぜ どぜ どぜ どぜ

SERGEANT OZAKI!!

BUT I DIDN'T I DON'T.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU TROUBLE, INSPECTOR. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

Huh? "OVER-LOADED TRUCKS"...?

I HONESTLY CANNOT IMAGINE WHY THE TANK POLICE WOULD WANT TO SEE THE RECORD OF ARRESTS FOR OVER-LOADED TRUCKS! AND THERE ARE *PROPER PROCEDURES* FOR REQUESTING DOCUMENTS, SERGEANT!

Eh heh heh

PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL, YOUNG LADY. YOUR REPUTATION'S AT STAKE!

THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF LEAKS RECENTLY, SERGEANT! IT'S AFFECTING OUR MOBILE OPERATIONS!

*Dispersed Patrol: Each tank is assigned a different area to patrol (each vehicle operates solo). In contrast, in combat patrol the squad maneuvers as a single unit. In Leona's case, the three tanks in the squad maintain a distance of thirty to fifty yards so they can provide mutual fire support. In other words, maneuver in formation.

Eh?! THINGS? I MEAN, I, WE JUST WENT TO THE FIRING RANGE THAT ONE TIME...

Oh, HO!

BY THE WAY, DEAR... HOW ARE THINGS GOING BETWEEN YOU AND THAT DELIGHTFUL TAKASHI NAMBA IN DATA PROCESSING, *mm*?

Uh-oh! I'M DEEP IN THE STUFF *THIS* TIME!

I... I UNDERSTAND, INSPECTOR! I'LL FOLLOW UP! I'LL CALL HIM--

びぇ〜 'EEP'

YOU HAVE TO SEARCH FOR YOUR *LIFE PARTNER!* THIS IS *IMPORTANT*, YOUNG LADY!!

BAM

BAM

YOU WON'T BE YOUNG FOR-EVER!

HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU CAN HIDE IN YOUR HIGH TOWER LIKE A LITTLE PRINCESS, CHILD?!

?

I... *I'M SORRY*, SERGEANT OZAKI!!

SO, ANYWAY... WHY ARE YOU SO INTERESTED IN TRUCK LOAD-INGS, OFFICER SHINOZAKI?!

'WHUD

ドズ

POLICE

IN FACT-- COME WITH ME THIS *INSTANT!*

Eh?!

AND I SUGGEST YOU WIPE THAT SMILE OFF YOUR FACE, MISS ASADA! *YOU'RE* NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER, EITHER!!

...

...

S-S-SERGEANT!! HELLLP!

I'LL BRING THIS GIRL BACK IN A WHILE, SERGEANT!

...THAT WAS *NOT* WHAT I WAS ASKING YOU ABOUT! NOW--WHAT'S THIS ABOUT OVERLOADED TRUCKS?!

AND... YOU CAN LEARN A LOT FROM POLICE INSPECTOR TOTATE, SHINOZAKI. I WON'T HAVE YOU CALLING HER AN "OLD BAG."

*FWAP

UP

KCHIK

BUT... BUT... BUT I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU HAVING TO BOW YOUR HEAD TO... TO THAT OLD BAG FROM TRAFFIC CONTROL, SERGEANT! I FEEL *AWFUL*. I... I HAVE NO EXCUSE...

A GOOD POLICE OFFICER NEVER APOLOGIZES SO QUICKLY, SHINOZAKI!*

CHIK CHIK CHIK

*sign TANK PO IE FIRST OMPANY THIRD PLATOON

*FX BRMM BRMM BRMM BRMM BRMM

HONEY, WE'RE HOME!

POLICE

POLICE

K-FF K-FF

POLICE NEWPORT

*FX BRMM BRMM BRMM

HEY, CHECK IT OUT-- LEONA'S BONAPARTES ARE READY TO GO!

SOMETHIN' GOING ON?!

YEAH! YOU DRIVE US *NUTS!* SO JUST, LIKE, *BUG OFF*, OKAY?!

I DON'T *WANT* YOUR HELP-- I *HATE* YOU TANK POLICE!

UH, GOSH, SORRY! I'LL WASH IT FOR YOU AFTER I GET OFF DUTY.

I JUST WASHED IT! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, UMEDA, YOU DUMB, OLD JERK!

HONEST TO GOD!!

*I agree you don t need to go around apologizing for everything, but when there has been a clear error or a violation of ethical standards. then probably the guilty party his or her direct superior and a representative of the police force as a whole should apologize to the citizenry and the victim him or herself (if there is one) Frankly most of the apologies by bigwigs you see on television strike me as a hollow sham The people bowing their heads in front of the cameras may find it momentarily distasteful, but hey—this kind of problem involves more than presenting an ethical façade If you can't convince people on the emotional level (and with a large dose of logic) that you truly regret what you have done, you'll still be distrusted no matter how much you apologize Of course, you can't run a society on emotions alone but neither can you run one solely on logic

B-BUT... I *NEVER!* NOT *YOU!*

SHEESH, ARE YOU *ALL* OUT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ME? YOU GUYS ACT LIKE I'M YOUR PERSONAL SLAVE OR SOMETHING!

UHHH... OFFICER UMEDA... YOU CAN HELP *ME* WASH MY CAR.

*FX SLAM

I SAID I *DON'T* NEED YOUR HELP! AND IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS WHEN I'LL BE BACK!

Er, OFFICER DEUSU! WHEN ARE YOU OFF PATROL?

UMEDA! YOU STAY ON STAND-BY!

YES, SIR!

....

I *NEVER* CALLED HIM A SLAVE! AND THAT'S NOT WHY...

GIVE IT UP, RERIKA. HE'S ONLY NICE TO MAKINA.

NP 06

WE'VE GOT TO WEASEL SOME EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS OUT OF THE SUPER BEFORE SECTION THREE FINDS THE HIDEOUT...

IF WE'RE LOGICAL ABOUT IT, SOMEPLACE WITH REPAIR FACILITIES, RIGHT? IT HAS TO BE ONE OF THE ARMAMENT COMPANY OPERATIONS DOWN WHERE WE WERE TODAY.

THAT'S ODD. LEONA'S BIKE'S NOT HERE SHE MUST STILL BE AT *HQ.*

YOU KNOW WHAT BUGS THE HECK OUT OF ME? WHERE THE *HELL* DOES URUSHI-MARU HIDE OUT?

HEY, LIKE, CHILL, HUH? HE WAS JUST THINKING OF DOING WHAT *LOTS A'* COPS DO, RIGHT?

OKAY, FIRST YOU LOOK UP YOUR BUDDY'S ARREST RECORD. AND *THEN* WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO...?!

AND *THEN*?!

...

*book SECRETS

GOD *DAMN* IT, SHINOZAKI!! ENOUGH WITH THAT WUSSY BOWING-AND-SCRAPING STUFF!!

NO, *NO!!* HONEST, SERGEANT, I DIDN'T PLAN TO DO *ANYTHING!* I'M *REALLY* SORRY...

POLICE

!

I *KNEW* SOME-THING WAS WRONG!!

HOLY COW! LEONA'S SITTING DOWN!

MOVING OUT?! LIKE, *GOING OUT?!*

ROGER!

RIGHT THEN! THIRD PLATOON, FIRST COMPANY MOVES OUT IN FIVE! *HABANA!*

*FX VREEEE

HABANA, I'M LEAVING SHINO-ZAKI TO YOU.

ANYWAY... I WILL *NOT* TOLERATE ANY MORE ACTIONS ON YOUR PART REGARDING THAT ARREST, UNDERSTAND? AND I ABSOLUTELY *FORBID* YOU FROM POKING AROUND IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS!

*book GREAT TANK BATTLES 2014 2018

*FX GRAB

HEY, HEY! LET GO OF ME! *NOW!*

I DON' WANNA I DON' WANNA I DON' *WANNA!* I'LL DIE OF BOREDOM!!

I'LL DIEEEEE!

WAAHH!

YOU'RE TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO YON'S SQUAD. SCRUB THE FLOOR OR ANSWER THE COMPLAINTS LINE OR DO SOMETHING USEFUL, UNDERSTAND?

Ulp!

WHAT ARE *YOU* SO HAPPY ABOUT?

STOP CRYING LIKE A BABY AND COME WITH ME

YES, SIR

BREEPLE zreeeee Skssshh

YOU THINK A SIX-FOOT-TWO-INCH *MONSTER* LIKE YOU CAN FIT INTO A BONAPARTE?! DON'T BE AN IDIOT!

TAKE YOU...? BUT...

PULEEEZE TAKE ME WITH YOU! PRETTY, PRETTY PLEASE! O HONORABLE, GREAT, COOL, POLICE SERGEANT, BOSS, SIR MA'AM!

POLICE

AND SAYORI FOURTEENS AT THAT! HUH--THE GIRL REALLY MEANS TO SHOOT HIM DOWN!

DAMN! SHE OUTMANEUVERED US AGAIN!

eeber babble yabble

WHAT? YOU ALREADY GOT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL?

YON, TAKE HER OFF MY HANDS, WILL YOU? I'LL BE BACK WITH NINE SAYORI FOURTEENS.

*This sound effect is the sound of a report being transmitted over the modem. Leona's report on the next-generation AFV selection committee meeting is being sent to the e-mail in-boxes in Brenten's and the chief's computers. A hard copy is made of the original for filing

FX VREEEEEE

LOOK, I SWEAR, CORPORAL HABANA...

DON'T GET SO DEPRESSED OVER A DUMB LITTLE INCIDENT LIKE THAT, SHINOZAKI! SNAP OUT OF IT, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!

정 찰

POLICE

...MAYBE I REALLY *WOULD* HAVE TRIED SOMETHING, THIS TIME...

I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO BE AN UPRIGHT, HONEST PERSON, BUT...

AND WHEN THAT CRAZY OLD LADY WAS GRILLING ME LIKE THAT... I DON'T KNOW... IT JUST POPPED OUT, ASKING FOR THE DOCUMENTS...

...I JUST STOPPED IN FRONT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL FOR NO REASON, NOTHING AT ALL. JUST CAME TO A STOP, UNDERSTAND?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK--

POLICE

HEY, YOU!!

YOU GODDAMN POTATO HEAD!

YOU TALKING TO ME?

OH, HI, SERGEANT.

DANGER

POLICE

IF THIS HAS YOU SO BENT OUT OF SHAPE, I WORRY ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, KID. *Sheesh...*

ANYWAY, RIGHT NOW ALL YOU'VE GOT TO THINK ABOUT IS URUSHI-MARU! UNDERSTAND?!

WHAM

POLICE

YOU FOOL!

SHKK

IF SHE HAD THE KIND OF FEAR YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, SHE WOULDN'T GET MY TRUST OR RESPECT.

NOW THERE'S SOMEONE WITH NO FEAR...

YOU DO IT AGAIN AND I'LL *CRACK YOUR SKULL LIKE A NUT!!*

C-CAN'T B-BREATHE...

VREEEEE

POLICE

YOU THINK YOU CAN SMOKE *RIGHT NEXT* TO THE FUEL RESERVES AND *GET AWAY WITH IT?!*

AAH!!

KBLOOSH

AIEE!

POLICE

POLICE STATION

EEK!

DAMN, I'VE BEEN IN THE SWORD LEAGUE SO LONG I CAN'T SHAKE THAT HAMMER STROKE. MY FRONT LEG WAS SLOW, TOO...*

POLICE

*In Leona's world there's an unusual sport called the Sword League where you fight with weapons and mix different martial-art styles (of course you can only get into the league if you've fought and won in the lower ranks of the other sports). It's evolved from a big melting pot of current martial arts—kendo naginata ancient Japanese and Chinese martial art traditions—and attracts a lot of police officers. The hammer stroke Leona mentions is a stroke with your feet placed in a 'T'. The delay in getting her front leg into place comes from league play where you try to avoid getting hit in the calves (or something like that).

Bonaparte uses hydrogen as fuel

?!?

*FX WHSSH

SOME KIND OF EXPLO-SION...?

WHAT THE HELL?

IT'S JUST *GOT* TO BE ANNA!

I GOT ALL SMALL, SERGEANT, SO LET ME RIDE IN THE TANK... OKAY?!

ktak

*FX BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA SPAK SPAK SPAK

EEYARRGH!!

WHY?! HOW?! AIEE!

GYAAAOW!

*ROLL ROLL ROLL

*FX WSHH WSHH

W-WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU *MADE OF?!*

YOU... YUH... YOU WERE SO *HUGE* BEFORE! IT'S...IT'S... *UNNATURAL!*

GEE WHIZ, BOSS! HOW COME YA HADDA DO THAT?! IT *HURT!!*

DON'T *YOU* TALK TO *ME* ABOUT COMMON SENSE!

THAT A WORD LIKE "UNNATURAL" EXISTS AT ALL INDICATES A *SERIOUS* DEFICIENCY IN COMMON SENSE.

HMPH! A FAT LOT OF NERVE YOU HUMANS GOT CALLING *ME* UNNATURAL!

YUP--IT'S ONE OF OUR WAY-COOL SUPER-POWERS!

Y-YOU CAN *SHRINK?* JUST LIKE *THAT?*

Hmph!

ASADA! LOOKY, LOOKY!

AM *NOT!*

♪ NYAH! NYAH! ASADA'S STI-ILL AN-GRY! ♪

HABANA, SHINOZAKI, TAKE T-32. ASADA, SHIMIZU, YOU'RE IN T-33. ANNA AND I'LL TAKE T-31.

OKAY, MISTER MORI-- SWITCH PODS BETWEEN T-31 AND T-32.

Oh?!

YAHOO! LUCKY ANNA!

WHA-?!

HEY, YOU! STAY AWAY FROM THE TANKS UNTIL WE SWITCH PODS! IT'S BLOODY DANGEROUS!

I CAN'T REACH IT!

AW, RATS! I SHOULDA SHRUNK *AFTER* I GOT IN!

경 찰
POLICE

WE'LL STOP BY TO PICK THEM UP WHILE WE'RE ON PATROL. SHOULD COME BY ABOUT 1345. THAT'S RIGHT. THANKS A LOT.

POLICE

HELLO...? AKAMATSU MUNITIONS? OH, MISTER SETO, IT'S YOU. LEONA OZAKI HERE, ABOUT THE SAYORI FOURTEENS.

IDIOT! I TOLD YOU NOT TO TOUCH IT YET!

OH, I GET IT! IF YOU PUSH THIS, THE FLOOR OF THE POD SPLITS OPEN AND LOCKS ONTO THE BODY.

*F.X. GRAN GAN

MAIN-GUN SHUTTER, MINI-GUN SHUTTER ACTION CHECK! ALL SENSORS, GREEN! REMOTE ARM CONTROL, GREEN!

경 찰
POLICE

pfssh

*FX VRMMBB RMBB RMBB RMBB

POLICE

SQUAD LEADER, MA'AM, SIR! I CAN'T SEE NOTHING!

T-32, STANDBY, READY!

T-33 STANDBY, READY!

*F.X. RMBB RMBB RMBB

HONEST, I CAN'T SEE!

FIRST SQUAD... MOOOOVE OUT!

*VRCOM

청 찰

POLICE

IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S FITTING IN AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED...

*FX DN DN DN DN DN DN

SO... DOES IT WORRY YOU, SINCE SHE'S THE SAME AS YOU? OR IS IT PURELY PROFESSIONAL INTEREST IN OUR MOBILE UNITS?

*FX TAP TAP

SO FAR, THEY HAVE. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN--NOT YET.

THEY APPEAR TO HAVE ACCEPTED HER MORE NATURALLY THAN I HOPED. IT'S PROMISING.

IT'S ESPECIALLY INTRIGUING TO ME, BECAUSE WE'RE NOT THE SAME.

I'M HERE ON ORDERS, SO THE LATTER TAKES PRIORITY. BUT, TO BE HONEST... BOTH.

NEW PORT DEPT.

NEWPORT 横須賀

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE, THEY SAY. BUT WHICH FIRE...?

SO... YOU DIDN'T INDUCT HER INTO THE FORCE JUST TO KEEP HER OUT OF TROUBLE, DID YOU...? THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT?

I DON'T SEE HIS CAR ANYWHERE

SO LIKE WHATCHA WANNA DO? GO BACK?

MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE JUST HUNG OUT BY THE RECEPTION DESK

OH GROSS!!

WOW— IT'S LIKE A FIGHT!

*NPC: Newport Police Center. NPPC: Newport Police Patrol Car.

KCHIK

IT'S NOT OUR BEAT, BUT I GUESS WE CAN'T JUST PRETEND WE DIDN'T SEE IT OR NOTHING, HUH?

ROGER, PC-06.

Um... GOT A 07 IN PROGRESS AT OUR PRESENT LOCATION, POSSIBLE 413. REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE!

READ YOU, PC-06. OVER.

NPPC-06 TO NPC, OVER!*

BOOK, MAN!!

SHEE-IT! IT'S THE PIGS!

HEY, YOU! YOU BAD GUYS! Umm... STOP FIGHTING RIGHT NOW, OKAY?!

NP 06

POLICE

WELL, UH... I GUESS WE GOTTA CHASE 'EM AND ARREST THEM, HUH?!

THEY'RE TAKING "FOOT BAIL"... !! NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO?!

HAH?!

N-NEITHER HAVE I!!*

B-BUT I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE!

SKREEEE

POLICE NEWPORT

*In order to prevent this kind of thing from happening, usually you don't team up rookies together. From now on, let's all partner our rookies with reliable veterans! The various codes by the way are not unified across the entire Kinki region but are unique to the Newport station.

*WEEOO WOO! WOO WOO

HANDS UP, OR I SHOOT!

SHANG

HALT, FOUL MISCREANTS!!

POLICE

KRANG

SQUEEE

경 찰 POLICE

SUMBITCH! IT'S DA TANK POLICE!

KRAK

HULLY SHIT!!

VNP

DON'T SHOOT!!

KANG

KRNCH

KRASH

WHUD

WHAM

POW

WHANG

KRAK

RED MEANS STOP, DUMBASS!

YOU F'RGGIN' MORON!

BEEP!

BEEP

HONK HONK

IDIOT

BEEP!

BEEP

AH KIN YEW!

HONK HONK HONK

B. BEEP

AARGH! MY NEW CAR!

WHAT THE HECK?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?! WHERE'D YOU KNUCKLEHEADS BUY YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSES?!

HONK

BEEP

POLICE

STOP HIM!

YESSAH! HEE HEE

POLICE

ANNA!

COOL!

HEY!

BKAM

WHRAKK

*F.x BKAM BKAM

YOU TWO OFFICERS! PLACE THE "HAND OF THE LAW" ON THESE FOOLS WHO DARE DISTURB THE PUBLIC PEACE!

POLICE

SLAM

OH, MY...!

*F.x SKSSHH

KRAK KRAK

*OOOSH

*SKSSH

WHO EVER SAID HIS HEART HAD TO *STOP*, YOU CLOCK-WORK DITZOID?! I OUGHT TO ROLL YOU UP AND SHOOT *YOU* OUT OF THE GUN!

Huhhh? BUT SQUAD LEADER-- I CAN STILL HEAR HIS HEART BEATING!

ANNA!! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?! ONE ROUND IS ENOUGH! *JUST ONE!*

BKAM

I'LL HANDLE TRAFFIC CONTROL! ME, ME!

AWW, *NO FAIR*, MAKINA!

ROGER, T-31. *NPC* OUT.

はっは

はっは

I'M NOT SURE IT'S A STRAIGHT 07. TAKING THEM INTO SPECIAL CUSTODY JUST IN CASE. *NPT*-31, OVER.

THE 07 REPORTED BY *NPPC*-06 HAS BEEN SUPPRESSED-- CANCEL CODE 4. SWITCHING TO VIDEO FEED. RUN IT PAST SEC-4 AND THE JUVIES FOR CROSS CHECK.

I WANNA SHOOT SOME MORE!

RATS!

NPC HERE... WE READ YOU, *NPT*-31. OVER.

NPT-31 TO *NPC*, OVER!

POLICE

*F.X HAHAHAHA

*F.X (heart beating

W-WHAT?! YOU'RE L-LEAVING?!

WE'RE IN KIND OF A HURRY, SO I'M MOVING OUT NOW. THERE SHOULD BE A PATROL CAR OR DETECTIVE UNIT HERE ANY MINUTE.

I HAPPENED TO BE IN THE AREA. I HEARD YOUR CALL, AND THOUGHT I'D HELP OUT.

BUT FIRST, YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT ANY INJURIES RIGHT AWAY. NO ONE LOOKS *TOO* BAD, BUT EVEN SO...

AND IF ANYONE SAYS IT'S OVERKILL, TELL THEM THE TANK POLICE ORDERED YOU TO DO IT.

POLICE

IF YOU'RE *THAT* WORRIED, SIT THEM DOWN AND TAPE THE WHOLE BUNCH TOGETHER. THEY WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE.

MASTER SLAVE MANIPULATOR KUH-LSB1 MYSTER ARM

KSHH

KSSHH

POLICE

BEEP!

UH... OK.

I'M GIVING YOU MY CARD JUST IN CASE. IT HAS THE TIME AND CO-ORDINATES ON IT ALREADY.

KREEK

VREEEE sksshh

eep!

*sfx: YOUR SAFETY'S STILL ON DEAR!

*CHG CHG CHG CHG CHG

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION!

Ahem ... CITIZENS! PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BE ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS!

AH?! "LEONA OZAKI"....? NOT *THE* LEONA OZAKI?!

THE POLICE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED CO-OPERATION AS WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A BETTER SOCIETY FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN!

THANKS TO YOU, GOOD CITIZENS, WE'VE PREVENTED MORE LAWLESS EVILDOERS FROM RUNNING AMOK IN THE STREETS!

Grr!

SNAP

KRAK

POLICE

HEY DO WE STILL HAFTA KEEP OUR HANDS IN THE AIR OR MY BUTT

SCREW YOU, BITCH! KEEP YER FILTHY MEATHOOKS OFFA ME!

HEY, YOU! STOP RESISTING!

....

*SFX: WOOF! ARF! WURF

BUT I COULD DO WITH LESS OF YOUR SUPPOSED "FREE-THINK-ING"...

STILL... THAT *WAS* EXCELLENT SHOOTING. I GUESS YOU ANDROIDS *DO* HAVE YOUR USES.

POLICE

OVER MY DEAD BODY.

HEY, SQUAD LEADER! GIMME THE *P.A.* MIKE! I WANNA HOWL OUT MY WILD VICTORY SONG!

FOR PETE'S SAKE, ANNA! I GET IT! *ENOUGH* ALREADY!

Y'KNOW SQUAD LEADER THAT IN THE *VERY* BEGINNING THE ELECTRONIC BRAIN WAS DESIGNED TO CALCULATE BALLISTIC TRAJECTORIES SO OF COURSE WE'RE *SO* MUCH BETTER THAN -

COOL! A SUPER-DUPER, GIANT JAW-BREAKER!

GOOD GIRL, ANNA·· HERE OPEN WIIIDE

GIVEN INITIAL MUZZLE VELOCITY AND THE ROUND'S ACTUAL·· HEY?! HEY YOU'RE NOT EVEN *LISTENING!!* AW C'MON! LISTEN! PRETTY PLEASE?!

UHN?

*FX WHE WHD WHD

*FX ZZZZ ZZZZ

14

I'M SLEEPY SO SLEEPY

*FX WSHH WSHH WSHH

*FX WHD WHD WHD

WATCH YOUR STEP, MA'AM

beep b-beep breep!

14

ZREEEE kchak!

DON'T YOU "BIG BRO" ME, YOU ROTTEN SON OF A BITCH! EMBARRASSING THE SHIT OUT OF ME THE *MINUTE* YOU GET INTO TOWN!

HEY, BIG BRO!

YO!

BRADY!!!

POLICE

*FX WHRANG

SAY... YOU ASLEEP, GEN?

MY LAND! JUST LOOK AT THAT-- IT'S THE STATE BRUTALLY VIOLATING A CITIZEN'S UNALIENABLE RIGHTS!

SORRY, BRO... GUESS I KINDA SCREWED UP.

YOU NEVER CHANGE ONE GODDAMN BIT!

SKRUNCH GRNCCH

SEXUAL HARASS-MENT BY AGENTS OF THE STATE!

AND NOW TWO BIG, HAIRY GUYS LIKE THAT MAKING OUT IN PUBLIC. I TELL YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS...

MAN, HE'S BEEN WORKING OUT

MAN, HE'S GONE TO HELL

*FX WOMP

WAP WAP

DAMN, YOU'RE LOOKIN' GOOD!

*FX WHUDD WHUDD

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... YOU WEREN'T *THAT* FRIGGIN' UGLY LAST TIME I SAW YOU. WHAT THE HELL? THE GUY YOU WERE FIGHTING WITH DID THAT? YOU BIG PUSSY!

I GOT KINDA PUNCHED OUT, MAN... I'M JUST ALL SWOLLED UP.

OUCH! HEY, MAN, THAT'S NOT FAT... HONEST, BRO.

ボス ボス

DAMN... I DON'T SEE YOU FOR A COUPLE A' YEARS, AND YOU GET FAT AS A PIG!

KINDA MADE ME LOSE MY CONFIDENCE, BRO... I'M A LOSER...

NOT HIM, BRO... IT WAS SOME COP DAME WITH BIG CAT EARS. *ONE* DAMN PUNCH, MAN!

*FX SIGHHH

SO-- HOW'S MOM AND DAD? STILL HANGIN' TOUGH?

Uh... JUST FORGET IT, OKAY?

"ANDY ROYD"...? WHAT THE HELL?

OR I FIGGER THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. AIN'T SEEN IT MYSELF YET.

"CAT EARS"...? OH, *HER.* SHIT, THAT THING AIN'T EVEN HUMAN, BRADY-- IT'S AN *ANDROID.*

I'M NOT AN OFFICER YET, MA'AM.

Ah-- THAT'S HIM OVER THERE, OFFICER.

THAT'S *BAD,* BRADY!

WHA-?! NO WAY, MAN!!

DIDN'T YOU GET MY LETTER, MAN? THEY'RE GETTING OLD SO FAST, BRO. Y'KNOW THEY CUT BACK THEIR BENCH PRESS TO FIFTY FREAKIN' POUNDS?

FIRST I EVER HEARD OF IT. YOU CAN'T PIN THAT RAP ON ME. I GOT WITNESSES.

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT.

YOW!! TH-THAT'S *HER!* SHE'S THE ONE WHAT DID ME, BRO!

WHILE HE WAS FIGHTING WITH THE THIEF I GOT PUSHED BACK INTO THE CROWD. BY THE TIME I COULD GET THROUGH, YOU POLICE HAD ALREADY TAKEN BOTH OF THEM AWAY.

Hmm, kwm.

THIS IS THE NICE BOY WHO GOT MY HANDBAG BACK FROM THAT NASTY MAN WHO STOLE IT... I'M *SURE* OF IT.

AW, IT WAS NOTHIN', MA'AM.

YOU *HELPED* SOMEONE? UNBELIEV-ABLE!

THAT'S WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

I'M SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO GET HERE. I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, SIR.

C'MON, MA'AM... YER EMBARRASSIN' ME.

AW, MA'AM... I, uh...

OH, NO IT WASN'T! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HELPING ME, YOUNG MAN!

*FX WHPP

YA MANGY FURBALL! YOU WAS LUCKY THE FIRST TIME AROUND, LADY! THE ONLY DEAD BODY HERE'S GONNA BE *YOU!!*

HOW COME YER ASKIN' ME THAT RIGHT NOW?

WHAT? WHADDYA MEAN?!

EXCUSE ME, INSPECTOR, BUT WHAT'S THE PRO-CEDURE WHEN SOMEONE DIES IN THE HOLDING TANK?

sniff

I THINK THERE'S A DEAD MAN IN THE NEXT CELL OVER.

I'LL DO JUST THAT

IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER PROBLEMS GIVE ME A CALL

WHERE'S THAT DAMN DOCTOR?! GET FORENSICS!

DAMN IT ALL!

HOW THE HELL?

YEAH?

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR MORIYAMA?

SIT DOWN OVER THERE A SEC

SAYORI FOURTEENS? WELL, GUESS THAT'S OKAY... GOT YA... SAGAWA ARMAMENTS?

OH, IT'S YOU, LEONA. WHERE ARE YA?

SURE

THANKS FOR YOUR TIME

YES, MA'AM! THANK YOU, MA'AM!

DAMNED IF I KNOW. GO RUN IT PAST GONTA IN JUVIE.

I, umm, I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE...?

I HEAR YA, GIRL! LEMME SEND IN YON'S SQUAD FOR BACK-UP! JUST CAMP OUT THERE UNTIL IT GETS DARK, UNDERSTAND?! NO GOING OFF HALF-COCKED, YOU HEAR ME?!

RIGHT, THEN! I'M OFF!

THANK YOU, INSPECTOR TOTATE!

LEMME GET THE PATROL SECTION TO HELP ON DAMAGE ASSESSMENT.

EXCELLENT WORK SORTING OUT THAT SIX-CAR COLLISION, YOUNG LADY! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

BREEP!

PLEASE SELECT A CC: ADDRESS

beep beep beep beep

YES, MA'AM!

DON'T FORGET TO COPY THE CHIEF ON YOUR REPORT.

INSPECTOR TOTATE...?

すささささ

ffsst fsst

*FX WSH WSH WSH WSHH

Seeing Sakura heading toward the front entrance she assumes he's returning to HQ

PERMISSION GRANTED, OFFICER.

FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE, SUPERINTENDENT SAKURA, SIR! P-PLEASE PERMIT ME TO GUIDE YOU TO YOUR CAR!

*SNAP

YES!!!

*VICTORY!

HEY!! SOMEBODY LEFT THEIR FRIGGIN' REPORT IN THE FRIGGIN' TERMINAL!

I'LL BUST IT!

OR MAYBE MY ANCESTORS WERE GLAD I CLEANED THE FAMILY GRAVE LAST WEEKEND...

TEE HEE

*WHUD

NO, NO... MAYBE IT WAS THE HOLY WATER FROM IKUTA SHRINE?

IT HAS TO BE THAT "LUCKY LAPIS CHARM" I BOUGHT THROUGH THE "PSYCHIC PALS" HOTLINE!

SKRAK

OH, REALLY?

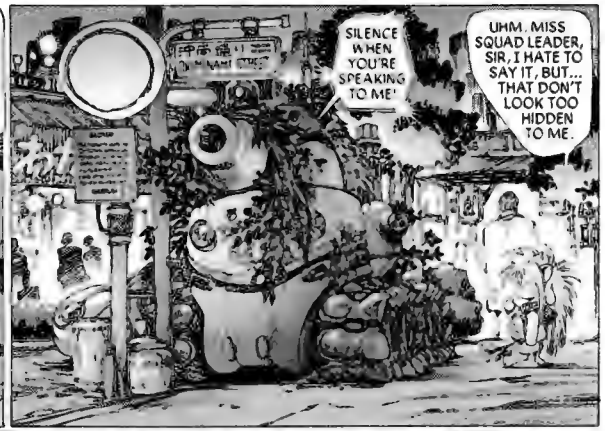
I HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT THE SUPERINTENDENT'S OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS! IT'S AN HONOR TO WALK BESIDE YOU, SIR!

HOH!

T-33, ROGER. HOWEVER, I DO NOT APPROVE OF THESE TACTICS. REGISTER MY FORMAL DISAPPROVAL.
T-32, ROGER. CAN I CALL HOME AND LET MY WIFE KNOW?
MAKE IT FAST
OKAY, FOLKS... WE KEEP OUR EYES PEELED UNTIL TWENTY-THREE HUNDRED. IF THERE'S NO MOVEMENT BY THEN I INTEND TO HAND IT OFF TO S-3* AND RETURN TO REGULAR ROTATION.
I BET UNI'S HAVING FUN BY NOW. NO FAIR!
AIN'T WE GONNA KNOCK OFF, TOO?

Headquarters Section Three, Section run by Assistant Inspector Madaradabara
In charge of the Oiseshi-Maru case

HUMANS DON'T COME WITH COMPOSITE VISION PROCESSORS!
IF WE BREAK UP THE OUTLINE A LITTLE, IT WON'T STAND OUT FROM A DISTANCE. AFTER THE SUN GOES DOWN...



IF YOU'RE TRYING TO HIDE LIKE THAT, WHY DON'T YA JUST GO PARK IN A DARK ALLEY AND PULL A SHEET OVER YOUR HEAD?
OH, Y'DON'T, HUH? SO SORRY. SORRY I WAS EVER MADE
IF YOU WANT TO STAKE OUT SAGAWA, JUST LITTLE OL' ME IS MORE'N ENOUGH!

SATOMI . . . YEAH, IT'S ME

beep beep beep beep beep beep BEEPING

I'LL JUST, uh, GO GET SOME FRESH AIR...

I THINK I'LL BE BACK BY MIDNIGHT... YEAH... SWEET DREAMS.

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN TONIGHT WITH THIS URUSHI-MARU BUSINESS. GO AHEAD AND EAT WITHOUT ME. DON'T WAIT UP.

DON'T BE STUPID-- LACK OF PRIVACY COMES WITH THE JOB. JUST FORGET ABOUT ME AND WATCH THE MONITORS.

WHY? WHY?

WHY?

SHIMIZU, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO DAMN PASSIVE. I'D JUST AS SOON SKIP THIS AMBUSH BUSINESS AND GO STRAIGHT IN WITH A WARRANT, OR AT LEAST SOME KINDA TRUMPED-UP CHARGE...

I WANT TO GET IT OVER WITH WHILE THE BAD GUYS HAVE TAKEN A HIT AND WE HAVE PLENTY OF FIRE-POWER. WHO WOULDN'T?

'CAUSE THE ONLY TIME WE CAN RUN AROUND WITH NINE SAYORI FOURTEENS ON BOARD IS ***NOW*** WHEN WE'RE ON OUR WAY BACK FROM PICKING THEM UP! AFTER THIS, WE'VE ONLY GOT PERMISSION FOR ONE ROUND EACH!

OFFICER ASADA... MAKE SURE YOU PUT IT IN YOUR REPORT THAT I OPPOSED AND PROTESTED THE SQUAD-LEADER'S METHODS.

WHY'S THAT, SIR?
EH?!
TOMORROW'S ROTATION HAS US IN RESERVE, SO LEAVE YOUR SCHEDULE OPEN.
I GUESS I'D BETTER TELL YOU.
Sigh...
HUH? I MEAN, UH, YES, SIR! THANK YOU, SIR! *THANK YOU!*
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "HUH?"... YOU IDIOT! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND *ANYTHING?! THINK!!*
OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE... DON'T *CRY!*
Huh?
YOU KNOW THAT TRUCKING FIRM YOUR BUDDY WORKS FOR? TRAFFIC CONTROL'S GOING IN TOMORROW TO READ THEM THE RIOT ACT. I'M GOING TO SEE THAT YOU AND I GO WITH THEM.
I CALLED IN WHILE YOU WERE OUT TAKING A LEAK.
FX WAAHH

IT IS NOT MERELY RISKY TO DO THINGS SOLO LIKE THIS JUST TO HOG ALL THE CREDIT. IT IS, IN FACT, VERY NEARLY HERETICAL. IT IS CERTAINLY UNSEEMLY AND COULD HURT YOUR PERFORMANCE REVIEW.
THE PROPER WAY TO DO THINGS IS TO WORK IN CLOSE CONCERT WITH OTHER SECTIONS AND FOLLOW REGULATIONS, YES?
WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR FUNCTIONAL IDENTITY AS POLICE OFFICERS IF WE OURSELVES ARE GUILTY OF IGNORING THE LETTER OF THE LAW?
SHIMIZU, IF WE'D HAD AMMO YESTERDAY LIKE WE DO TODAY, WE'D HAVE *NAILED* THE GUY!
DAMMIT, SHIMIZU! THE PROBLEM WITH YOU IS YOU'RE TOO--
OH, REALLY? YOUR SIMPLISTIC "THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS" EMOTIONALITY IS HARDLY PRODUCTIVE, OFFICER ASADA. OUR REAL CONCERN SHOULD ALWAYS BE METHODICAL LEGITIMACY.
YOU BETTER JUST TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE SQUAD-LEADER'S RECORD, OKAY?! SHE'S NOT LIKE THAT AT *ALL!*

HEY!? WHAT'S A *KENBITSU* TANK DOIN *HERE?*

POOR DEARS WORKING LATE IN THIS COLD

THE B-9 SURE IS DINKY

HMPH! DAMN COPS WASTING OUR HARD-EARNED TAX DOLLARS

AND IF URUSHI-MARU SHOWS UP, WE CAN ACTUALLY *SHOOT* HIM! SUCH *BLISS!* SUCH *JOY!*

TANKER HEAVEN!

IF YOU'RE GONNA USE A TANK, YOU GOTTA USE IT *RIGHT!*

♪YEE hee hee I GOT SEVEN LITTLE SAYORIS IN MY MAA-GA-ZINE!♪

GO GET 'EM, KIDDO!!

ROGER! TRANSMIT EVERYTHING YOU SEE STRAIGHT TO MY MONITOR!

...O GREAT AN' GLORIOUS SQUAD LEADER. LOOKS LIKE THE OVERTIME WORKERS HAVE ALL GONE HOME I'LL GO CHECK THEIR ELECTRIC METER.

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN BY "WEIRDO"...?

LIKE, *STRANGE*-- HUMANS SHOULD BE FREAKING OUT, TRAPPED IN A LITTLE CAN LIKE THAT. BUT THE SQUAD LEADER'S HAPPY AS A CLAM.

LEAVE HER IN A TANK TOO LONG AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS? *DAMN!*

THAT GIRL... HAVIN' THE TIME OF HER LIFE!

GONGGG!

TRY AGAIN! I'VE SENT IN ANNA... FOURTH TIME'S THE CHARM, RIGHT? JUST LETTIN' YOU KNOW, BOSS! OVER!

YO, LEONA-- YOU FLUSH THE RAT?!

T-31 TO *TRC.* COME IN, *TRC.*

SHE WASN'T PICKED ON-- SHE'S A *BULLY* THROUGH AND THROUGH!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT... PSYCHOLOGY'S JUST ANOTHER NUT-CASE RELIGION.

WHAT *ARE* YOU BABBLING ABOUT, YOU HAIRY POCKET CALCULATOR?! AND BESIDES, YOU'RE *WRONG!* NOW *GET TO WORK!*

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT SCREWED UP YOUR HEALTHY PSYCHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, HUH? HUH?

HEY, SQUAD LEADER BOSS MA'AM... DID OTHER KIDS ALWAYS PICK ON YOU WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

B14

B13

CHAK

HEH, HEH

安全第一

WHOA! THIS PLACE IS *TOTALLY* HUGE!

ALL RIGHT, WHO DID THAT?! WHO'S THE FOOL WHO DARES TO THROW STONES AT MY TANK?!

POLICE

KANGG (CLUNKLE

DAMN IT, ANNA! WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU NOW?! KEEP ME INFORMED!

SEND THEM TANKS TO THE SCRAP-YARD!

YOU SHOULD BE SOLVING OUR PROBLEMS THROUGH SINCERE DIALOG AND PACIFISM!

DEATH TO VIOLENCE!

ACK?!

YEAH! WHAT HE SAID!

WE PROTEST THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE TANK POLICE AVATARS OF BRUTE FORCE AND VIOLENCE!

*signs: STOP FUSION REACTOR! FREE ENERGY SYSTEMS FOR EVERY HOUSEHOLD! NO TO TANK POLICE! DISARMAMENT!

DEATH TO VIO-LENCE!

SMACK IN THE VIEW-FINDER BOSS!

WHAT?! THAT'S DISCRIMINATORY LANGUAGE! POLICE DIS-CRIMINATION! DID YOU GET THAT ON TAPE?!

YEESH... NUTCASES FROM SOME BRANCH OF THE "CHURCH OF PEACE AND SAFETY," RIGHT? WHO TURNED OVER THE ROCK AND LET YOU GUYS OUT?

RIGHT ON, MAN

YEAH!

WE MUST ABANDON WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE!

PRO-TECT HUMAN RIGHTS!

POLICE

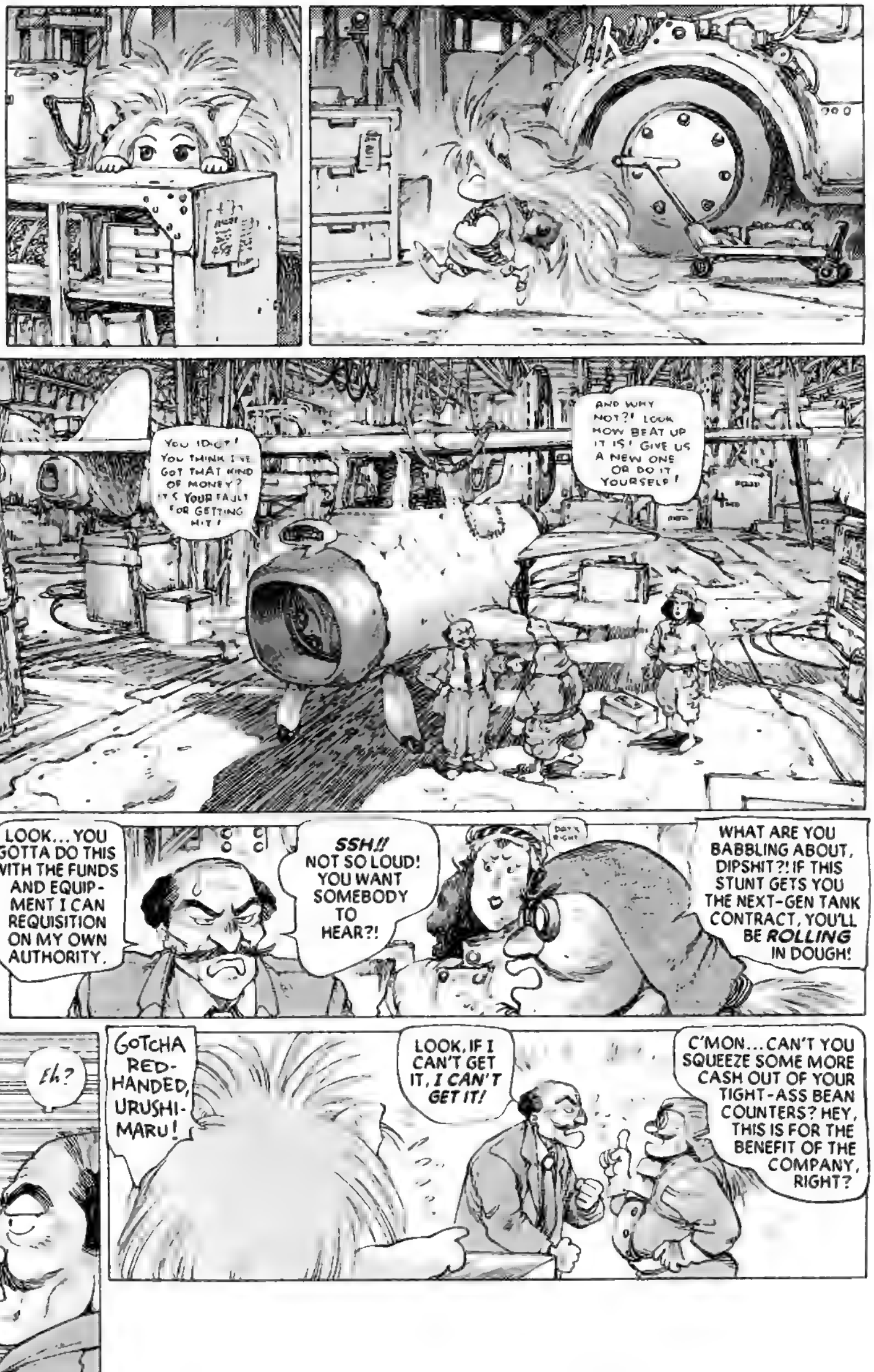
WHY DOES THIS ALWAYS HAPPEN TO *ME*?

T-33 ON STATION READY FOR ACTION!

T-32 HERE... IT'S TOTALLY DEAD. WHY-- SOMETHING WRONG?

T-31 HERE! T-32 T-33-- STATUS REPORT! OVER!

WHA? A SEC!


YOU IDIOT! YOU THINK I'VE GOT THAT KIND OF MONEY? IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR GETTING HIT!
AND WHY NOT?! LOOK HOW BEAT UP IT IS! GIVE US A NEW ONE OR DO IT YOURSELF!
LOOK... YOU GOTTA DO THIS WITH THE FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT I CAN REQUISITION ON MY OWN AUTHORITY.
SSH!! NOT SO LOUD! YOU WANT SOMEBODY TO HEAR?!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT, DIPSHIT?! IF THIS STUNT GETS YOU THE NEXT-GEN TANK CONTRACT, YOU'LL BE ROLLING IN DOUGH!
EH?
GOTCHA RED-HANDED, URUSHI-MARU!
LOOK, IF I CAN'T GET IT, I CAN'T GET IT!
C'MON... CAN'T YOU SQUEEZE SOME MORE CASH OUT OF YOUR TIGHT-ASS BEAN COUNTERS? HEY, THIS IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMPANY, RIGHT?

YOU KNUCKLEHEAD! THAT'S NOT A HUMAN-- IT'S AN *ANDROID!*

WHAT THE HEY? WHAT'S SOME SNOT-NOSED KID DOIN' IN HERE?

*FX ARRGH!

NO, NO, *NO!* YOU'RE S'POSED T' SAY "CURSES, FOILED AGAIN!"

THAT'S NOT ME! IT'S *HIM! HE'S* URUSHI-MARU!

*FX SPAK SPAK SPAK

*FX BLAM BLAM BLAM

*BASH

BJORK!

ME?! I'M A NOBLE GUARDIAN OF THE LAW!!

GYA HA HA HA!

ALL RIGHT, YOU!! START YAPPIN'!! WHO ARE--

ARMPIT HAIRS FROM A HAIRY CRAB! YOU EGGPLANT-HEAD DUM-BUM!

YOU FLOUR-SACK BELLY MAN! SHRIMPY CATERPILLAR-LEG MIDGET! FAT OL' PIGEON DOO-DOO BAG!

"FIRE-FIGHT"...?! ANNA, DO YOU HAVE ANY WEA-PONS?

POLICE

SQUAD COMMANDER! FOUND URUSHI-MARU! MONDO FIREFIGHT! GREAT BIG OUCH!

UMM... LET'S SEE...

THE COPS?!

RUN FOR IT!

*FX KRIK KRAK KRUMBLE

YAARGH!

WHA--?! "EGGPLANT HEAD"...?!

*FX BKCOM

WHEEE!

*FX VREEEE

I CAN MOVE WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME! I'M OUTTA HERE, TIGHTWAD!

I'LL POLISH IT OFF BEFORE THE COPS GET HERE. YOU'RE THE DECOY! *MOVE IT!*

I CAN HANDLE AN ANDROID OR TWO!

T-32 AND T-33, JOIN FORCES AND CRASH THE COMPOUND! MAXIMUM SPEED TO ANNA'S LOCATION. THEN SUPPRESS AND HOLD! YOU'RE AUTHORIZED TO FIRE AS NEEDED!

T-32 ROGER!

T-33, ROGER!

T-31 TO T-32 AND T-33!

T-32 HERE!

T-31 ROGER!

KRASH

ABUSE OF AUTHORITY!

YEAH! JUST TRY IT!

HEY WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE?

YOU'RE IN MY WAY! IF YOU DON'T MOVE, I'LL ARREST THE LOT OF YOU!

RESPECT CIVIL RIGHTS

I CAN'T MANEUVER!

PUT AN END TO VIOLENCE!

VIOLENCE IN ITS TRACKS!

WHO NEEDS

ROGER! BUT I'VE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM! SEND SOMEONE TO DEAL WITH THESE PEACENIKS!

LEONA! IF YOU'RE FLUSHING THE RATS, DRIVE 'EM SOUTH-EAST TO WHERE YON'S WAITING! AND TRY NOT TO SMASH UP THE FACTORY, WILLYA?!

POLICE

T-31 TO T-32! SITREP?

T-32, NOW JOINING UP WITH T-33

LISTEN, YOU GUYS! CONFIRM THE LOCATION OF YON'S SECOND SQUAD NOW WHILE YOU CAN.

T-32, ROGER. WE'LL DO THE BEST WE CAN OVER

*FX: AMBB AMBB AMBB

HMM?

ゴ ゴゴ ゴゴ ゴゴ ゴ

AHHH?!!

KREEEEEK

KANG

DON'T BRING HOME COMPANY WITHOUT ASKING FIRST!

SQUAD COMMANDER! I BROUGHT URUSHI-MARU'S LITTLE FRIEND WITH ME!

A HAMMER TYPE FOUR?!

I'VE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE.

CREEEEE b-beep!

IT...IT'S A TRAP!

GIRL, IF THAT MOTHER SO MUCH AS TWITCHES, BLOW IT ... AWAY!

STOP THIS SENSELESS FIGHTING!

DESTRUCTION WILL NEVER BRING PEACE!

WILL YOU *PLEASE* GET OUT OF MY DAMN WAY?!

暴力反対

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL AT IT, YOU PINHEADS!

UH... VIOLENCE IS BAD...?

FX WHSSHH

BABOOM

KCHAK

HE MOVED!♡

FX FWAK FWAK FWAK FWAK

BRTTTT

EEEEK!

OW OW OW OWIE!

OR IF YOU'D RATHER, I COULD BE PERSUADED TO HELP OUT WITH... A LITTLE *VIOLENCE!*

DEAR BRETHREN OF THE CHURCH OF PEACE. WHY DON'T YOU "DIALOG" THAT SON OF A B'TCH INTO STOPP'NG?

THEY'RE NOT DEAD... THOSE WERE JUST RUBBER BULLETS-- WARNING SHOTS.

UH EVERYONE OUT THERE JUST GOT WASTED. IS THAT, LIKE, OKAY?

ANNA! ENGAGE THE WIDE-ANGLE GUN!*

*the 12mm shell on Napoleon's storm

KCHAK

SHE'S *SERIOUSLY* WARPED!

I HATE PIGS!

BASTARDS!

SHEESH. YOU DON'T GOTTA *SHOUT*--I'VE GOT EARS!

SHAKK

TARGET ENEMY *AFV* MAIN WEAPONS SUITE! *FIRE!*

NO! NOT THE RUBBER! USE *LIVE AMMO*, YOU PEABRAIN!

SAY... WEREN'T YOU GONNA TRY "DIALOG"...?

*KACHANK

WHAT TH-?

GOODY, GOODY... NOW I CAN USE 22MM "OUCH-OUCH" ROUNDS!

YEAH, YEAH!! I THOUGHT SO, TOO! "WHAT WEIRD ORDERS," I SAYS TO MY-SELF. "THIS IS TOO, *TOO* STRANGE!" NYA-HA!

"NYA-HA," *NOTH-ING*, YOU NONG!

WHAT GOOD IS IT HITTING ARMOR WITH RUBBER BULLETS?!

POLICE

YOU USELESS CYBER-BIMBO! ARMPIT HAIRS FROM A HAIRY CRAB! YOU EGGPLANT-HEAD DUM-BUM!

WE'RE *JAMMED!* RIGHT WHEN WE NEED IT!

ARRGH!

WHAT KIND OF IDIOT CHANGES CHAINS* WHILE THEY'RE SHOOTING?

*Vulcan gun ammo is chains of thousands of rounds linked on connected

-sniff-

ERR...NOW, WHERE IS THAT EMERGENCY ROCKET-LAUNCHER CON-TROL...?

I MEAN, HELL! IT'S JUST ONE OF KENBITSU'S LITTLE PEA-SHOOTER BONA-PARTES!

I CAN MAKE MYSELF OUT TO BE A VICTIM! THE *WHOLE COMPANY* A VICTIM!

W-WAIT A SECOND! IF I CAN ESCAPE BACK INTO THE FACTORY BEFORE URUSHI-MARU TAKES OFF, I CAN PIN IT ALL ON *HIM!*

KSSHAKK

KCHUNK

VREEEE

EVADE!

Huh?
AHH?!

chikka chikka

SQUAD COMMANDER, SIR MA'AM! MEBBE I'M WRONG, BUT THAT LOOKS *NASTY!*

*F.X. FKROOM

KANGG

HIGH-SPEED ZIGZAG FIFTY YARDS, HARD RIGHT AND STOP

A ROCKET LAUNCHER?

WAAH!

W-W W- WE'RE HI-HI-HIT"

BOMF!

DAMN! I SHOULD HAVE READ THE SPECS IN THEIR PROPOSAL MORE CAREFULLY

USE YOUR EARS AND THE PERISCOPE!

IT'S A NEW KIND OF SMOKE' THE *IR* CAN'T CUT IT'

AH THE HECK WITH IT! *TURN!*

FIFTY YARDS? YOU MEAN FROM THE FRONT TREAD OR THE BACK TREAD?

OOH! I THINK YOU'RE TOUGH, DO YA?!

MISSED!

YO-HO-HO! I SURE PICKED A CRAZY JOB TO EARN MY CASHOLA!

POLICE

YOU CAN *RUN*, BUT YOU CAN'T *HIDE*, PAL!

SILENCE! SWING US AROUND AND GO AFTER HIM! *NOW!*

SQUAD COMMANDER? I THINK THE REAR TREAD'S ABOUT TO COME OFF!

찰

G-GA-CK!!

SKREEE

ガガガ

KRAK
KANG
KNK
THOK
WHO
OW!
KWCH
KRAK
NOW! REMEMBER THE SOUTH WALL'S BEEN REINFORCED TO KEEP PRACTICE ROUNDS INSIDE THE FACTORY GROUNDS
NO WAY THAT KENBITSU PEASHOOTER CAN SHOOT THROUGH THAT ONE! I CAN SHARE 'EM FOR SURE NOW!
KANG
VROOOM
LOOKS LIKE HE GAVE US OUR OWN PRIVATE TAXI
LOOK! LIKE HE'S BACK IN THE FACTORY, BOSS
OKAY, OKAY HERE'S ANOTHER CANDY!
ANNA BEEN GOOD! GIMME GIMME!

OF COURSE WE ARE! BUT I CAN'T REDEPLOY SECOND SQUAD FOR SUPPORT YET! DON'T GO TOO FAR! WAIT FOR BACK-UP!

ARE YOU PIPING A MONITOR FEED TO T-3C FROM T-3I?

T-3I HERE! THE TARGET'S BROKEN A HOLE THROUGH THE FACTORY WALL. WE'RE GOING IN!

VWHIP

!!

DAMN! AND THAT WAS *SUCH* A GOOD ENTRANCE!

HEY, BOSSLADY! THAT LAST ROCKET TRAJECTORY WAS A *DELIBERATE* MISS!

KRNCH KRNCH

POLICE

IF OSAKA CITY AIR POLICE HAS A BLIMP UP THAT'S EVEN BETTER

NO WAY WE BACK UP NOW! IT'S NOT SO— FAITH IS IN A SAFE... IF VIDEO DATA FEED

IT'S SOME KINDA SPECIAL WALL— WE'RE GONNA HAFTA GO BACK TO THE HOLE

UMM... THE ECHO AND VIBRATION OFF THE RIGHT-HAND WALL IS MAKIN' THINGS SORTA FUNKY... I CAN'T PINPOINT THE TARGET

ZREEP

beep

ZAij

POLICE

ANNA! I DON'T NEED AN FRA[illegible] FIX... JUST ANALYZE HIS MOVEMENTS PROGRAM

THE PERI-SCOPE'S TOO SMALL

TARGET DECELERATING 45 40 35 30 NINETY-DEGREE RIGHT TURN BEARING NORTH!

APPROXIMATELY 12 DEGREES RIGHT PARALLEL TO US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL 60 YARDS AHEAD VELOCITY 50 MPH STRAIGHT AHEAD... AH?

VROOOMM

DATA PROCESSING'S NEGOTIATING WITH ACCOUNTING TO BUDGET IT RIGHT NOW! BUT LISTEN UP—NO WAY DO YOU CRASH THAT WALL! YOU'LL BE DEAD MEAT FOR SURE!

T-3! TO T-3C! WHERE THE HELL IS MY DAMN AERIAL FEED?!

WHY'S THAT?!

A SAYORI 14 WON'T EVEN SCRATCH IT! GO BACK TO THE HOLE HE MADE BEFORE!

DATA SAYS THEY ABANDONED IT IN PLACE 'CAUSE IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE TO TEAR IT DOWN!

THAT'S A SPECIALLY REINFORCED WALL THEY PUT UP WHEN THAT WAS STILL A GROUND SELF-DEFENSE FORCE ARTILLERY RESEARCH CENTER!

VROOOM

DAMN DAMN DAMN!

AL-MOST AT THE CENTER OF THE PLANT

YO, BOSS! THE TARGET'S BURNING RUBBER! 20...30 MPH! ACCELERATING TO THE NORTH!

KCHIK

FEED ME HIS CO-ORDINATES! PRONTO!

CAN DO, T-31. BUT YOUR OWN POSITION IS KINDA FUZZY

I GOT IT! T-32, THIS IS T-31... CAN YOU PINPOINT THE VEHICLE HEADING NORTH TO THE CENTRAL FACTORY AREA?

WHATCHA DOING, COM-MANDER BOSS MA'AM?! YOU CAN'T PENE-TRATE IT!

ZIP IT AND GIMME A READOUT ON DAMAGE TO THE WALL! *NOW!!*

A CARBON FIBER
B CHOBHAM Q
C FRAME
D TITANIUM ALLOY

*FRONT VIEW
正面図 R
F
*CROSS SECTION
断面図
F
R
b-beep!
WE'RE A THIRD OF THE WAY THROUGH! GREAT!
A
B
C
D
DEPTH OF PENETRATION
A:
B:
C:
侵徹判定部
BFEEP
OKAY... GOT THE POSITIONAL FIX FROM T-32!
beep beep
lak lak ka
FEEDING IT TO YOUR MONITOR TOGETHER WITH THE PLATOON COMMANDER'S DATA. GUESS YOU HUMANS NEED TO *SEE* STUFF TO PROCESS IT, HUH?
CHOBHAM
ICE
HOW COME YOU ALWAYS GOTTA TELL?!
ONE MORE!

*WHRAM

POLICE

YOUR BUTT IS MINE!

NYA-HA-HA! TAKE THAT!

*FX KRIK KOHIK KRIK

WHOO

*FX SPLAK

Of course, just because one round went a third of the way through, it doesn't follow that two or more will do the trick But hey, it's easier to understand this way Also, the damage is shown reversed from the way it really would Sorry—it's all a sham!

WARNING! ENEMY SHELL INCOMING DANGER!

EH?! WHAT?! WHERE?!

INTERLOCK SYSTEM SAFELY LOCKED WHEN SYSTEM BUZZER SOUNDS PLEASE PUSH RED BUTTON

BIG!

JRK!

WSHAK

ENEMY SHE... IMPACT SECONDARY EXPLO... ZZAA

BOMF

*BKROOM

*SKSSHHRAKK

WHUD

KRAK

THNK

...WHEN CONTEMPORARY LAMINATED ARMOR IS PENETRATED FROM THE [illegible], THE LIQUEFACTION [illegible]ESS SHOULD RESULT IN...

SQUAD BOSS... GIMME A NEW JAWBREAKER! THIS ONE'S GOT ALL LITTLE!

SPIT

NOW WAIT A SEC...

HEY!?

POLICE

OUCH!

YOU IDIOT!!

POLICE

ALL *RIGHT!* WAY TO *GO!*

FWAP

ぬぬ!

I'VE ALREADY CALLED IN FREAKIN *MASSIVE* BACK-UP TO SURROUND THE FACTORY! THINK ABOUT *MY* REP FOR ONCE WHY DON'T YA?!

I UH GEE ER

DON'T IGNORE ORDERS! YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORD *ORDERS*?! DAMN! NOW EVERYTHING IS ALL SCREWED UP!

YOU SEE THE GEEK ON THE CHUTE IN THE CENTRAL FACTORY ZONE? BRING HIM IN!

CAN YOUR SQUAD STILL HANDLE YOUR MISSION IF I YANK ONE OF YOUR TANKS?

T-34 THIS IS T-3C

CAN DO T-3C

T-34 HERE

IN PURSUIT OF URUSHI MARU'S AIRCRAFT IN CO-OP WITH T-33 LOTS OF OBSTACLES CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT

T-31 TO T-32 STATUS REPORT!

SECOND SQUAD HAS THEIR GUNS TRAINED ON THE PROJECTED TAKE-OFF WINDOWS FOR BOTH THOSE ROUTES SO WE'RE COVERED THERE CAN YOU FLUSH HIM?!

IF IT'S A RUNWAY HE'S AFTER, HE'LL WANT TO MAKE FOR THE CONTAINER STORAGE AREA OR THE NORTH-SOUTH CORRIDOR THROUGH THE CENTRAL FACTORY AREA

IS HE JUST TAXIING AROUND AT RANDOM IN THERE? OR IS HE LOOKING FOR A RUNWAY?

*SPAKOOM

*BRAM

SQUAD COMMANDER! THIS IS ASADA! I'VE FOUND URUSHI-MARU!

I'M PICKING UP ENGINE NOISE BEHIND US ON OUR LEFT. *MIGHT* BE THE REAL THING, BUT THEN AGAIN...

NOW, NOW... I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SHOULD HAVE FIRED JUST NOW. AND BY THE WAY, I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE RIGHT AIRPLANE...

I COULDA SWORN THERE WAS A CONVEYOR PASSAGE HEADING SOUTH OUTTA HERE...

UIP.

DON'T TELL ME! JUST *SHOOT!*

HABANA, SIR. WE'RE IN FIRING RANGE

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, SHINOZAKI?! *LET THEM HAVE IT!*

DAMN! NOT *AGAIN*, DAMMIT! I'VE GOT THE TREADS FOLDED IN AND THEY *STILL* CATCH!

SHINOZAKI, YOU'RE NOT MISREADING HIS SMOKE ON THE SENSORS, ARE YOU...?

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WAY! I *CAN'T!*

POLICE

*FX CHNK CHNK CHNK CHNK

OH, MY GOD! MY PRECIOUS LITTLE "MISS SMOKEPOTS"...! SAVE *ONE* OF THEM AT LEAST!

TAKE THAT! AND THAT! *AND THAT!*

NO WAY YOU'RE CATCHING US HERE, SWEETIES!

Pop Pop Pop

DAMN IT, SHIMIZU! GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER!

GEE, ASADA... DID SOMETHING JUST GO BEHIND US?

POLICE

IT'S AN EXIT!

EXIT

*SHRAKK

SHREEE!

ONCE WE CLEAR THIS PASSAGE WE'RE AIRBORNE AND OUTTA HERE I DON'T WANT TO GET SHOT DOWN AFTERWARDS SO BLOW THE ENTRANCE OKAY?

IDIOT! YOU'LL BLOW *US* SKY-HIGH TOO!

NYA-HA-HA! BLOWIN' IT SKY-HIGH FOR YOU URUSHI HONEY!

POP

NEXT TIME YOU'RE GONNA TRY SOMETHING STUPID, JUST ONE WORD, OKAY? ONE WORD IS ALL I NEED

TH-TH-THIS IS B-B-B-BUMPY!

T-31 TO T-32! WHAT WAS THAT EXPLOSION?!

T-34, DID YOU HEAR THAT?! WE'RE HEADED YOUR WAY!

T-34 ROGER

SON OF A BITCH! THE CONVEYOR PASSAGE BETWEEN THE FACTORY AND THE CONTAINER STORAGE AREA-- IT OPENS OUT OF THE FACTORY! *HE MUST BE IN THERE!*

安全第一

!

VHEEEE

ASADA AND ANNA, ENGAGE YOUR WIDE-ANGLE GUNS. BLAST THROUGH THAT RUBBLE!

HABANA! STAY HERE AND SECURE THE SITE! SHIMIZU, FOLLOW ME!

POLICE

GEE, I THINK PROBABLY HE IS, BUT... IF SO, THEN HE CAN ZIP RIGHT THROUGH IT TO THE OUTSIDE.

SHIMIZU! IS HE DOWN THAT CORRIDOR?

*FX BEEP BEEP

ALL RIGHT! LET'S TAKE HIM OUT!

T-34, ROGER. GOT A CLEAR FIELD OF FIRE. BUT YOU CAN SHOOT AT HIM, TOO.

YEAH?! *REALLY?!*

T-31 TO T-34-- WE'RE ENTERING THE CORRIDOR AND DRIVING HIM TOWARD YOU!

UH-OH!

AAH! I ALREADY USED UP ALL THE BOMBS!

THEN YOU BETTER TRY FARTING AT THEM YOU DUMB BROAD

HEY, BOSS! THERE'S TWO TANKS ON OUR TAIL--AND I THINK THEY'RE *LAUGHING!*

OW OW OW OW!

POLICE

YOUR ASS IS MINE, URUSHI-MARU!

경찰

POLICE

T-33 TO T-31! THE TRACTION SURFACE IS SO BUMPY I CAN'T AIM STRAIGHT!

SQUAD LEADER MA'AM! THEY'RE IN RANGE IF I KEEP THE TRAJEC-TORY JUST UNDER THE CEILING.

ROGER, T-31. SETTING *FCS* UPLINK NOW!

T-33! YOU'VE GOT A SAYORI 14 LEFT, RIGHT?! PATCH US INTO YOUR FIRE-CONTROL SYSTEM!

IT MAY BE ARMORED, BUT IT'S STILL JUST AN AIRPLANE. YOU WON'T RICOCHET.

ANNA! WITH YOUR BUILT-IN FIRE-CONTROL SYSTEM CAN YOU PLUCK OFF HIS TAIL FEATHERS?

CURSES! TANKS AT THE BACK DOOR TOO!

Huh?! A DEFLECTION SHOT*? I CAN DO IT, BOSS-LADY, BUT IF YOU DON'T TAKE US CLOSER IT COULD BOUNCE RIGHT OFF!

*"When [illegible] strikes the target at an angle [illegible] the impact velocity is the same as with a normal shot. What's changing is the way high-speed [illegible] deflects off the armor. Come on — don't tell me you didn't know that? You say if the impact velocity is the same as with a normal shot, the armor should just deflect the projectile?

KRM BKOOM

FIRE!!

WHUNCH

AIEE!!

EEEEK!

DID IT!! IT'S *BONUS TIME* TONIGHT, ANNA!

Eh?!

"CIAO"...?! D-DON'T LEAVE M--

AGGH!

FWHOOMPH

SORRY, BABE-- IT LOOKS BAD, SO... *CIAO!!*

FWHOOOSH

FX SPRARR

ガラ

ガラ

ガラ

HO, HO! HE'S TRYING TO ZIGZAG HIS BUTT OUTTA HERE!

はばばば

*F.X. WHIRRRGG

GORK

YES, SIR

ASADA! ARREST THE FEMALE MISCREANT!!

T-31 TO T-34! SLAP SOME CUFFTAPE ON URUSHI-MARU, IF YOU PLEASE.

*F.X. RM RM RM RM RM

THUNK

KSSHHHH

KANG!

WEEOOO

WEEOOO

NYA HA HA! SILLY FOMS!

F.X. DRN DRN DRN DRN DRN DRN

WOW... WE MAY BE ON DIFFERENT TRACKS, BUT I GUESS YOU'RE STILL A COP, AFTER ALL!

YOU THINK SO, TOO, SHIMIZU?!

Zreeeee

GEE... I'M KINDA GLAD WE MADE AN ARREST.

YEE-HAH! I GET TO ARREST A "MOST WANTED" CRIMINAL WITH MY VERY OWN HANDS! THANK YOU, LORD!!

REALLY, SHIMIZU! I WAS JUST TRYING TO COVER YOUR BUTT!

SAVE IT, STAMP IT, FILE IT.

YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND A THING, DO YOU?

SAY... I HAVEN'T FORWARDED THAT COMPLAINT YOU MADE AGAINST THE SQUAD LEADER, YET. YOU WANT ME TO ERASE IT?

SQUAD LEADER YON! URUSHI-MARU NOW IN CUSTODY. SAH!

GNARG

KNIK

OW, OW, OWWIE! I'M HURT! I DEMAND MEDICAL TREAT-MENT!

GOSH... I GUESS I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING REALLY COOL WHILE I'M DOING THIS...

SECOND PLATOON AND T-32 PROVIDE BACK-UP FOR INVESTIGATIONS UNTIL THEY'RE SURE THE SITE IS SECURE

ROGER!

ROGER!

OUTSTANDING, MEN! FIRST PLATOON, YOU GUARD THE PADDY WAGON LEAVE T-32 ON SITE AND RETURN TO *HQ* WHEN YOU GET HERE GO ON STANDBY

T-34 TO T-3C... URUSHI-MARU AND MISTER PARACHUTE ARE IN CUSTODY!

T-31 TO T-3C... URUSHI-MARU'S PARTNER IS IN CUSTODY!

YOU MECHA-BIMBO! *NOW* I GET IT--YOU DECIDED TO JOIN THE FORCE AFTER WATCHING THAT STUPID "GO GO *DETECTIVE MAN*" TV SHOW!

NO WAY?! WE STILL HAVE TO *WORK?!!* DON'T THEY GIVE US A SWIG OF WHISKEY AND AN ENVELOPE PACKED WITH CASH WHEN WE GET BACK?!

WEEOO WEEOOO

SEATECH

SO HOWCOME YOU KNOW ABOUT IT HUH? HUH?

OH, NO! I'M OUT OF CANDY HOW CAN I SHUT HER UP?

NO, NO, *NO!* I DO *NOT* WATCH JUNK LIKE THAT!

HUH? YOU KNOW ABOUT IT, BOSS? IS THAT HOW YOU—

REALLY.

CHIEF! THE TANK POLICE HAVE ARRESTED URUSHI-MARU!

HA'

はっ

GOOD. THANKS.

I'LL CONTACT REGIONAL *HQ* AS SOON AS IT'S READY.

I'VE GOT PUBLIC AFFAIRS WORKING UP A *PR* RIGHT NOW.

LOOK--I'D BE HAPPY, TOO, IF IT WASN'T FOR... *THAT.*

AHH... SORRY, SIR. I GUESS I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.

もし もしもしもしもし

Eh heh heh.

Ah ha...

THAT THERE HAIR OIL SOMEBODY FOUND BY THE SINK... I'M THINKING IT MIGHT JUST BELONG TO ME. MIND IF I TAKE A SQUINT AT IT?

YES?

SIR! 'SCUSE ME JUST *UNO MOMENTO*, EH?!

IN THAT CASE, WHERE DID *MINE* GO...?

OH... REALLY...?

OL' *DIE-HARD'S* GOT IT WRONG, BOSS. I TELL YA, SLAP THAT STUFF ON AND THE CHICKIES ***DIE*** FOR IT!

YEAH. OFFICER HARDD WAS SPOUTING OFF ABOUT HOW BAD IT STINKS. GOTTA BE MINE, I FIGURE!

EH? ***YOUR*** HAIR OIL?

STILL, WHERE ON EARTH COULD IT HAVE GOTTEN TO...?

THAT EXPLAINS IT. MOM WOULD NEVER CHOOSE SOME ODDBALL HAIR OIL FOR ME. I'M SORRY, MOM... I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DOUBTED YOU.

SOB

C-C-CAN WE GET Y- YOUR AUTO-GRAPH ?

RINGG RINGG RINGG

COOL! I *THOUGHT* SO! I KNEW I'D SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE, SIR... YOU'RE ***BRADY***, THE PRO WRESTLER!

AND DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM FOR ONE SECOND!

SIFF

NO PROB, LI'L DUDES

CRYING WILL *NOT* FIX YOUR REPOBOARD, MY DEAR!

*FX HRMPH!

YOUR NOSE, DEARIE...

B-BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD *BREAK*...

SNIFF

SNIFF

OF COURSE LOVE IS IMPORTANT, CHILD. BUT THAT DOESN'T EQUAL, "MY JOB IS *NOT* IMPORTANT."

AND YOU DIDN'T BACK THEM UP, YOU SILLY GOOSE?

B...BUT... ALL MY REPORTS FOR A *WHOLE WEEK* WERE ON IT... *WAAH!!*

JUST TRY TO BE MORE AWARE THAT YOU SOMETIMES LET YOUR ATTENTION SLIP, AND WORK TO REDUCE THESE... AH, INCIDENTS.

THE PROBLEM WITH YOU, YOUNG LADY, IS THAT YOU SIMPLY ARE NOT AS CAREFUL AS MS. DEUSU AND MS. SUZUSHIRO.

SNIZZORK

SNOOK

YEAH. I JUST MOVED HIM TO THE MORGUE. POLICE HOSPITAL'S SENDING SOMEONE OVER FOR THE AUTOPSY.

ONE OF THOSE GEEZERS CROAKED ON YA, HUH?

YO!

DAMN... THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF WAYS TO DIE.

I'M LETTING THEM STAY WITH THE BODY, UNDER GUARD, OF COURSE. THAT SHOULD BE OKAY, HEY?

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO?

Bleep FZK

beep!

MAN, OH, MAN...

STILL, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT REPOBOARDS CRACK LIKE THAT WHEN YOU LEAVE THEM IN THE TERMINAL...! PERHAPS IT'S THE HEAT?

?

YES, MA'AM.

sniff

*SEATECH a first-rate large company in the Dominion world

MAKES YA THINK.

THEN HIS WIFE UPS AND DIES ON HIM, HE GETS ALZHEIMERS, AND PRESTO, HE'S A GERIATRIC SHOP-LIFTER WITH A RECORD A MILE LONG...

MAN, THAT'S A DIFFERENT UNIVERSE. ONE HELL OF A RESUME.

-snrff-

Y'KNOW, THE OLD GUY WAS A PROF AT SOUTH KOBE COL-LEGE OF OCEANOG-RAPHY FOR TWELVE* YEARS. SEATECH HEADHUNTS HIM FOR THE BIG BUCKS, AND HE WORKS FOR THEM FORTY YEARS...

JUST ANOTHER "SOLITARY DEATH." NOT A RELATIVE IN THE WORLD TO CRY AT HIS BEDSIDE.

NO CHILDREN, NO FAMILY.

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN... PLEASE GIVE OLD GEN AN EASY RIDE, LORD. AMEN.

NANMYO HOREN HANYA HARAMIDA BUTSU

TUBES STICKIN' OUTTA HIM LIKE A PORKYPINE. TORTURE, THAT'S WHAT I CALL IT.

YOU REMEMBER HOW YONE DIED? THAT WAS HARD, SO HARD.

GEN GOT LUCKY, HE DID. THANK THE BUDDHA.

WHAM

GOTODA! GO GET THE PAPERS ON THE CADAVER.

YES, SIR.

GOD'R-FATHER-AMEN. HEY, AOSHIMA! MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD AND FILL IN THE FORMS.

WILL DO.

NO DONOR REG?

SO I HEAR

WHAT?! NO ONE'S DONE A CAUSE OF DEATH YET?!

1102

AH, HELL-- NO ONE'S CLEANED HIM YET.

NECK! THE NECK! DON'T BUST THE NECK BONES!

SOME-ONE GET THE LEGS!

YOU IDIOT! UNDER THE PELVIS! YOU'LL DROP HIM.

OKAY THERE... GET A GOOD HOLD. WE'RE MOVING HIM. ONE, AND TWO, AND--

HEY, NOT LIKE THAT!

OKAY... STEADY NOW...

NCAR

OH-NINE SIX-TEEN!

CAN YOU SIGN FOR THE BODY? HERE AND HERE. WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?

FX CHAKKA CHAKKA FX KSSHH

EXIT

HUH?

FORGET ANY THING?

THAT DOES IT. THANKS, GUYS.

FX CHAKKA CHAKKA

OH, FOR GOD'S SAKE, DON'T BE SUCH A CRY-BABY! JUST PLUG IT IN!

B-BUT... W-WHY NOT...?

LIKE, GO EASY ON THE TAPE, WILLYA?

GOLLY, RERIKA... JUST 'CAUSE THE FRAME'S BROKEN DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T SAVE THE DATA!

wf!

KTHHH

GAWD, WHAT IS THAT? A DIARY OR SOMETHING? DON'T TELL ME SHE REALLY TURNS THIS STUFF IN. !

eep!

SUZUNA, YOU'RE A MAGICIAN!

EEEK!

HOW DID YOU DO THAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

Dingg!

REPORT

11月9日

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP HURRAY!

IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, THEN PAY BACK THAT $100 YOU BORROWED FROM ME LAST MONTH.

*FX PURRRR

:sniff:

...IT'S TRUE-- THERE'S NOTHING MORE PRICELESS THAN FRIENDS.

*panel five screen this morning s big speed limit crackdown on the Cent al Expressway I m so tired I could scream These boots make my legs look fat My toes about freeze off when I stand out in the cold in these things I d like to take the jerk who designed these uniforms and make him wear them for a change Anyway that s how I feel about it That s what I was thinking when this red Mercedes JO25, license plate 33-HA-4 just, like totally went through this red light Can you believe that? Those Mercedes drivers just think they can do anything! I remember once when

GOOD SHOW!
THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!
YES, YES! THANK YOU!
WAY TO GO, LEONA!
YOU GOT URUSHI-MARU!
Hm?
CAN'T HOLD OUT NO MORE! WATER... *WATER...!*
CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED!
YEECHH! DON'T GO AROUND LOOKING LIKE THAT, ANNA! WOW, WHAT A SHOCK!
WAAAH! W-WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
HAIEEE!

Yeep!
GULP GLURP GULP GLRRGLE GLRP GLUG GLUG
*FX MUUUUUWA
GRR!! SHE DOESN'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS TALKING TO ME LIKE THAT!
WELL, TIME TO DRINK YOURSELF BACK TO NORMAL ANNA

*sign WATER PRESERVATION WEEK

*FX (turning around)

HAHAHAHA! THAT WAS *GREAT!* JUST LIKE LEONA!

WHAT... DID... YOU... SAY...?!

*FX KSSSHHH

しゅう

WHEWWF!

WHAT A CONVENIENT BODY YOU GOT, ANNA!

TIRING, THOUGH...

HEH...PATROL SURE IS MORE FUN THAN STANDBY. WHAT A TRIP!

THAT WAS ALL MY FAULT.

SORRY.

YOU WERE SO ANGRY BEFORE WE WENT ON PATROL, I'D GIVEN UP ON IT...

WOW! A PERFUME SET! LUCKY ANNA! ♡

HERE-- JUST FOR YOU. USE IT AFTER YOU SHOWER.

Hmm?

I FIGURE I WAS WAY TOO PASSIVE.

THEY SAID TO WATCH YOU, BUT I GUESS JUST WATCHING ISN'T ENOUGH, HUH?

KSHAK

*FX WHEEZE GASP

*FX: NRRGG!

P-PARDON ME?!

WE'VE PUT TOGETHER SOME PAPER LINKING URUSHI-MARU WITH SAGAWA ARMAMENTS.

YES, ASSISTANT INSPECTOR...?

YO! LEONA, BABY!

I, I... I CAN'T--

HEY, NOT TRYIN' T'PRESSURE YOU, BABE... BUT IF YOU COULD SAY YOU SAW THIS BEFORE YOU WENT OUT ON PATROL, ME AND THE BOYS IN SECTION THREE WOULD BE FOREVER GRATEFUL, SAVE FACE, ALL THAT GOOD STUFF.

SO I HAD THESE WARRANTS RUN UP, EVEN IF I COULDN'T MAKE IT TO THE ARREST.

AH... *I SEE...*

WHEN YOU DO UP YOUR REPORT, IT'LL LOOK BETTER IF YOU SAY YOU STAKED 'EM OUT BASED ON EVIDENTIAL DOCUMENTATION INSTEAD OF "FEMALE INTUITION," HEY, KIDDO?

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

YOU *WILL!?* YOU'LL DO IT, ANGEL!? YOU'RE ONE SWEET KID, YOU KNOW THAT? LOVE YA, BABY.

AW, THANKS ANYWAY.

EH? I... I MEAN, IT WASN'T JUST ME WHO...

SO! CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON A GREAT COLLAR!

FX SHAKE SHAKE

UH... OKAY.

YOU REALLY KICKED ASS, EH, GIRL?! GOOD WORK, *DAMN* GOOD WORK!

WHAT?! WHY DIDN'T YOU COME AND TELL ME RIGHT AWAY YOU IDIOT?!

I'M SORRY, SIR, B-BUT THOSE OLD GUYS ARE, uh, THEY WENT KINDA *AWOL* AND SPLIT SIR! I'VE LOOKED ALL OVER, BUT—

...eh?

RRG!

ONLY, NEXT TIME YOU GOT A HUNCH, LET OLD UNCLE MADARADABARA IN ON IT, OKAY? JUST ONE WORD, SUGAR...

Whewww ...

WHAT THE DEVIL? I THOUGHT MEN AND WOMEN WERE *EQUAL* NOW!

I'M GONNA GO NUTS!

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR, YOU SHOULDN'T GO AROUND TOUCHING THE YOUNG FEMALE STAFF SO MUCH. ONE SEXUAL HARASSMENT CHARGE AND YOUR CAREER COULD BE SHATTERED, *SIR.*

MAYBE I WILL AN' MAYBE I WON'T!

YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THOSE AIR-HEADED METER MAIDS, LEONA, SO CUT IT OUT WITH THIS "EEK" STUFF, WHY DON'T YOU?

SHEESH, NAMBA... YOU SCARED THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF ME.

EEK!

WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING, SIGHING AND MOONING AROUND LIKE THAT, LEONA?

TWO OLD GUYS? TO-GETHER!

UH UH.

WELL, I GUESS, SORTA...

HOPE

HEY! DID YOU SEE TWO OLD GUYS GO THROUGH HERE?

SO... WHAT'S WRONG? I THOUGHT YOU JUST SCORED A BIG ONE.

BUT JUST IN CASE, *JUST IN CASE* I WAS WRONG, I STAKED OUT THE PLANT WITHOUT TELLING *S-3*... YOU KNOW, INVESTIGATIONS.

WELL, LIKE, THE MOMENT I SAW THE LAB REPORT ON THAT, I JUST *KNEW* IT--IT HAD TO BE SAGAWA!

SAY... YOU HEAR HOW WE GOT AHOLD OF A PANEL OFF URUSHI-MARU'S AIRPLANE? THE NIGHT HE STINK-BOMBED HOKUTENRO?

YEAH, BUT...

THAT'S THE JOB OF THE PLATOON LEADER, ISN'T IT? HE SHOULD HAVE TOLD THEM.

YEAH. HEARD RUMORS.

*FX SIGH

I PASSED ALL THE REALLY RISKY STUFF OFF ONTO AN ANDROID...

I EVEN BROUGHT ALONG A BACK-DATED TRACKING TRANSMITTER* FOR AN EXCUSE IN CASE WE STRUCK OUT...

...I GUESS I WAS FULL OF WHAT A "HOT-SHOT COP" I AM...

BATTLE OF TANKS IN NEAR FUTURE

A "LUXURY"...?! "NATURAL"...?!

YOU HAVE TO LOOK OUT FOR THE PEOPLE UNDER YOU. IT'S NATURAL TO DO THAT.

THAT'S A LUXURY, GIRL.

"CRAP"...? IT'S JUST SO... SO *CHEAP.* I HATE IT.

YOU'RE MOPING AROUND OVER *THAT* CRAP?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!

THE POINT IS, PLANNING THINGS OUT AND COVERING YOUR BUTT DOESN'T SUIT YOU, LEONA.

NO, NOT YOU, ASADA. I'LL BE THERE.

AH, I'M S-SORRY! I DIDN'T REALIZ--

YOU THINK I DON'T *ALREADY KNOW THAT?!*

SQUAD LEADER! PLATOON MEETING IN FIVE!

LOOK, THIS ISN'T *"GO, GO, DETECTIVE MAN."* WE GOTTA DO THE BEST WE CAN IN AN ENVIRONMENT FULL OF NOISE AND STATIC. YOU CAN'T ALWAYS PACKAGE EVERYTHING UP NICE AND PRETTY.

*Refer to page 54 the homing transmitter that was put on Urushi-Maru yesterday.

BUT TO TIDE YOU OVER UNTIL THEN, I'VE PUT TOGETHER SOME BACKGROUND MATERIAL. YOU'LL FIND COPIES IN THESE ENVELOPES...

TAK TAK

WE'LL HAVE AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL OF YOU AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW MORNING, RIGHT HERE AT TEN.

NAMBA! HAVE I GOT SOME COOL INFO FOR YOU! CHEAP AT $10!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

KTHV

MY "NATURAL SELF," HUH...

DON'T TRY TO BE SOMEONE YOU AREN'T. JUST GO FOR IT, YOUR OWN NATURAL SELF.

YIKES!

COME BACK TOMORROW.

AT THIS STAGE, ALL THE HARD DATA WE HAVE IS IN THE *PR* I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU. THAT'S ALL I CAN DO FOR YOU TODAY.

HOW DEEPLY INVOLVED WAS SAGAWA ARMAMENTS?

SIR! WHAT CONDITION IS THIS SKY PIRATE, UH, "URUSHI-MARU" IN NOW?

WE RELY ON THE PRECIOUS TAX MONEY OF ALL OUR HARD-WORKING CITIZENS FOR OUR WORK. THEREFORE, OF COURSE WE'LL COOPERATE FULLY IN ANY OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.

I'VE HEARD THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE'S SENDING AN INVESTIGATOR...

YES, IT DOES APPEAR THERE WAS A SITUATION LIKE THAT, BUT ONLY VERY BRIEFLY. RIGHT NOW WE'RE AWAITING THE FORMAL REPORT FROM THE OFFICERS INVOLVED.

THERE WERE REPORTS OF A TANK BATTLE WITH CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE--

SQUEAK

THUD

WE'RE PLANNING A SPECIAL ISSUE ON THE NEXT-GENERATION TANK SELECTION PROCESS. WHEN I HEARD SAGAWA ARMAMENTS WAS INVOLVED, I TWISTED THE CHIEF'S ARM--

*FX THMP THMP THMP

So You THINK I CAN SCORE SOME POINTS WITH HER?

LEONA DOESN'T HAVE HER BIKE TO GET HOME TONIGHT!

YES, INDEED! AND ANNA SCORES TOO-GIMME MONEY!

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR KATSURA, SIR. FROM *JP NEWS*. I HOPE YOU CAN HELP US.

CAN I HELP YOU...?

DAMN! THEY SCOOPED US!

I HEARD CBC GOT SOME ON-SCENE FOOTAGE!

CERTAINLY. YOU SHOULD GO SEE ASSISTANT INSPECTOR MADARADABARA IN SECTION THREE, AND, OF COURSE, THE TANK POLICE.

ER... I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH AN OFFICER WHO WAS ACTUALLY ON SCENE AT THE ARREST. WOULD THAT BE POSSIBLE?

I SEE...

UH, NO, SIR.

IS THE CHIEF HERE, TOO? OR HAYASHI? HE'S IN CHARGE OF THE URUSHI-MARU CASE.

*FX TMP TMP TMP TMP

WHAT *ARE* YOU DOING, YOU SNOT-NOSED LITTLE BRATS?!

EEK!

SHE GOT NO GUARD UP!

MUST BE A NEWBIE, HUH?!

HEY, I NEVER SEEN HER BE-FORE!

EXCUSE ME!

EXCUUUSE US!

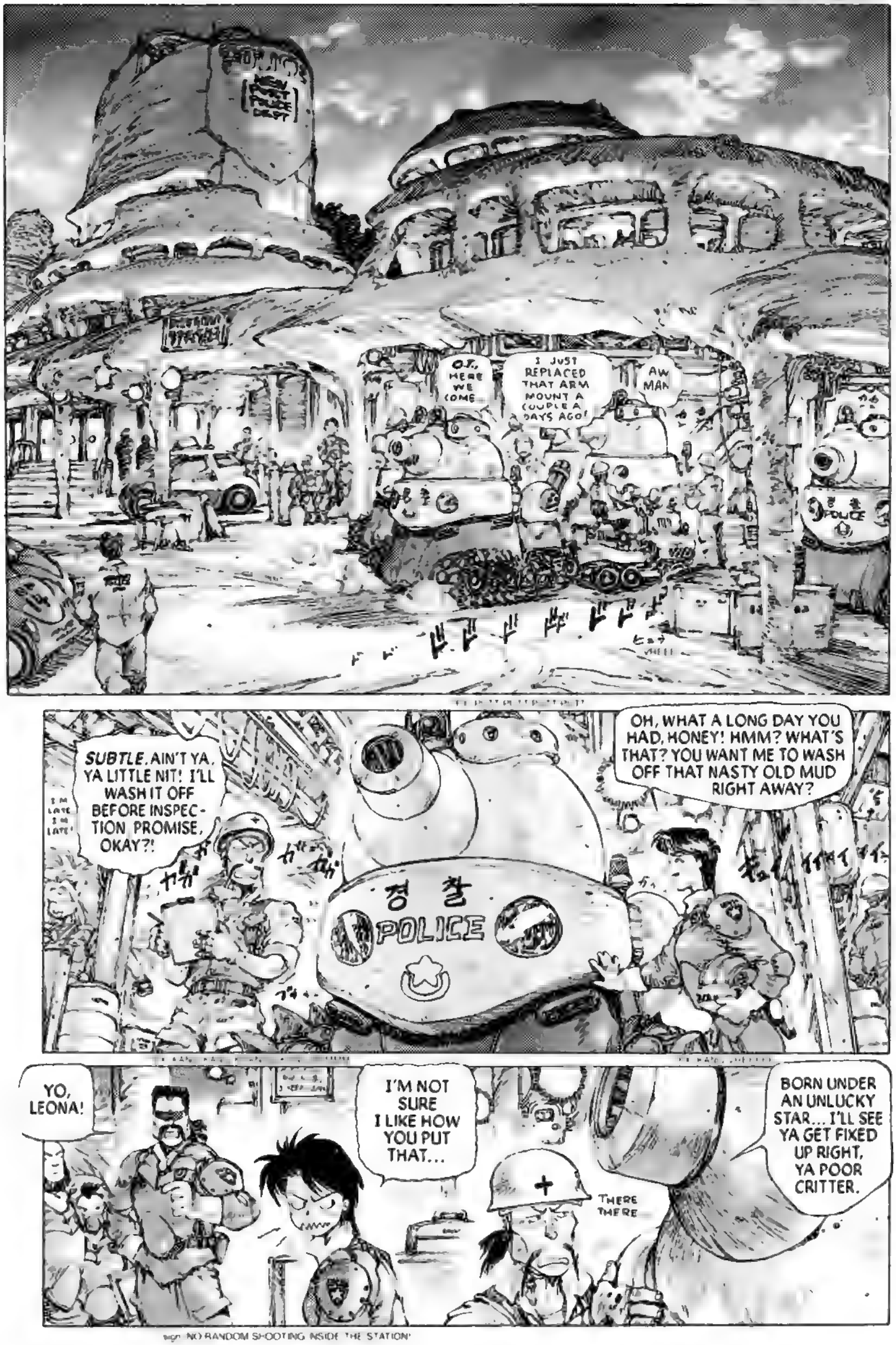
EXCUSE ME!

ESCUZEME!

I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT...

THE NEWPORT STATION TANK POLICE... THAT'S WHERE THAT LITTLE COW LEONA OZAKI CAME FROM...

◀ The uninitiated may be thinking, "Where'd these kids come from all of a sudden?" Actually, they're children from the precinct who come in for free kendo and judo lessons from off-duty officers. They're always hanging around in the evening.


O.K., HERE WE COME...
I JUST REPLACED THAT ARM MOUNT A COUPLE A DAYS AGO!
AW MAN
POLICE
SUBTLE, AIN'T YA, YA LITTLE NIT! I'LL WASH IT OFF BEFORE INSPECTION, PROMISE, OKAY?!
OH, WHAT A LONG DAY YOU HAD, HONEY! HMM? WHAT'S THAT? YOU WANT ME TO WASH OFF THAT NASTY OLD MUD RIGHT AWAY?
정 찰
POLICE
YO, LEONA!
I'M NOT SURE I LIKE HOW YOU PUT THAT...
THERE THERE
BORN UNDER AN UNLUCKY STAR... I'LL SEE YA GET FIXED UP RIGHT, YA POOR CRITTER.
sign: NO RANDOM SHOOTING INSIDE THE STATION

FOURTH PLATOON WILL TAKE OVER ON THE SAGAWA ARMAMENTS INVESTIGATION.

LET'S SEE HERE HRMM TOMORROW WE'RE IN RESERVE BUT MAKE SURE YOU GET ME THOSE REPORTS BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY.

THAT'S IT. DISSS- MISSED!

OKAY YOU GUYS DONE GOOD TODAY ALL OF YA! I'LL BUY THE BUNCH OF YA A ROUND FRIDAY AT "TENSUI." SEE YA THERE RIGHT AFTER WORK!

YOU BETTER ASK THE CHIEF ABOUT THAT.

OH WOW! SO LIKE DO ME AND UNI GET TIME OFF TOO?! VACATION CITY?!

REALLY?! THANKS I'D APPRECIATE THAT.

HABANA YOU TAKING THE TRAIN? I BROUGHT MY VAN TODAY IF YOU NEED A RIDE.

GOOD WORK ALL!

WHEW! WHAT A DAY HUH GUYS?

OKAY, MAN... GUESS I GOTTA HANG, HUH?

HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! YOU DON'T WANNA HIT MY PLACE? SUMAIZA'S BEEN EXPECTING YOU, MAN!

NAHH... FIGURE I'LL HEAD BACK TO THE HOTEL AND CRASH OUT. CALL YA TOMORROW.

BRADY! I STILL GOT SOME STUFF TO CLEAN UP. HANG OUT A LITTLE LONGER, OKAY?

POLICE

HEY, YOU KIDS! TREAT YOUR PRACTICE SWORDS WITH MORE RESPECT! AND DON'T GO POKING THEM AT EVERYTHING!

HIYA LEONA-SENSE!!

HIYA LEONA-SENSE!!

WOW! IT'S LEONA-SENSE!

WAAAH! AIEEE!

HA HA HA

TODAY MUST BE NEWBIE DAY, HUH?

SHE GOT NO GUARD—

HEY, AN-OTHER NEW POLICE-WOMAN!

ON *OUR* TANK POLICE, THIRD PLATOON IN PARTICULAR, HMM?

...THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IS ALWAYS WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO POUNCE.

IN ANY CASE...

AND EVEN IF THEY WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED, IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

LOOK, IT'S STILL UNCLEAR WHAT SAGAWA ARMAMENTS HAD TO DO WITH THIS.

...IF IT TURNS OUT THAT THE TANK DESIGN COMPETITION HAS SPAWNED AN OUTBREAK OF CRIME.

NO, NO... ON *ALL* OF US...

"FX ARRGGH"

AND ON *TOP* OF THAT, WE'D JUST COMMISSIONED NANKAIDEN AND HOKUTENRO TO PROVIDE INTERPERSONAL SKILLS TRAINING AT THE POLICE ACADEMY. JUST THINKING OF THIS MESS MAKES ME WANT TO WEEP!

くうぅ

AFTER THIS INCIDENT, THE TANK SELECTION GOES TO KENBITSU, UNDERSTAND? WHICH, OF COURSE, WILL MEAN ANOTHER ROUND OF ACCUSATIONS OF "COLLUSION WITH INDUSTRY, KICKBACKS"... GOD KNOWS WHAT.

EVEN IN THAT CASE, I REFUSE. IF I WENT ALONG, THE TRUTH WOULD EVENTUALLY GET OUT... AND THE POLICE WOULD END UP LOOKING WORSE THAN BEFORE.

YOU WANT ME TO COVER UP THE TRUTH IF IT TURNS OUT SAGAWA WAS IN IT UP TO THEIR EYEBALLS?

ALL THE MORE REASON TO AVOID ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY NOW, I SHOULD THINK.

EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW I'M RUNNING FOR THE ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR...?

OUR FRIENDSHIP IS *OVER!* KAPUT!

I UNDER-STAND. *PERFECTLY.*

NO, NO! IT...IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF BELIEVING OR NOT BELIEVING...

DON'T TELL ME EVEN *YOU* BELIEVE THE MASS MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC OPINION POLLS?!

ET TU, BRUTE?!

GRRR!!

OH, MY!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO "DISPOSE" OF IT MYSELF...

TUT, TUT! AND AFTER I MADE SOME NICE HERB TEA.

VERY WELL. I UNDER-STAND, *SIR.*

BUT I WANT TO KNOW EXACTLY HOW THIS CASE IS GOING. YOU REPORT *DIRECTLY* TO ME... *BEFORE* YOU GO PUBLIC!

GET OUT, GIRLFRIEND! THERE'S SOME-PLACE TO SLEEP IN THE STATION?!

DAMN IT WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CALL IN PATROL

I'M SORRY, SIR!

HEY, ANNA! I JUST FOUND US A *GREAT* PLACE TO SLEEP-- RIGHT *HERE!!*

Psst!

BRRRING

YES, SIR

CONFOUND IT.. THIS JOB BRINGS ME NOTHING BUT GRIEF.

NO MORE DUMP-STERS FOR PRETTY ANNA!

YAHOO! LUCKY DAYS!

I FIGURE IT MUST BE A PLACE FOR THE NIGHT SHIFT TO CRASH, HUH?

THE DOOR SIGN HAD SOME WORD I NEVER HEARD OF ON IT--"MORGUE." NICE BIG BEDS, CLEAN SHEETS. IT'S EVEN *SOUNDPROOF!*

NO, NO, NO! THEY'RE THOSE SLIMY THINGS LIKE THEY NEVER EVOLVED OUTTA THE SLIME. .SORTA SLIPPERY, WIGGLY THINGS, YOU KNOW...?

"OCTOPUS"... YOU MEAN, LIKE, THOSE THINGS THAT COME OUTTA HERE WHEN I BARF?

...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN SLACK OFF TOMORROW!

YOU GOT AN A+ ON YOUR FIRST DAY OUT, ANNA...

HOW ABOUT LUNCH FRIDAY? OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS OKAY?

HEY! SQUAD LEADER! DON'T YOU FORGET... YOU GOTTA FEED US!

THIS AFTERNOON...? OH, YEAH... THAT STREET FIGHT. NO. YOU DID GOOD. GOOD SHOW.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US OUT THIS AFTER-NOON!

UM, EXCUSE ME?! SER-GEANT OZAKI?!

OCTOPUS OCTOPUS OCTOPOT

BYE-BYE BOSS LADY! BE GOOD!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I WENT AND TOLD THEM THEY DID GOOD. JUST LIKE THAT...

STILL, I REMEMBER... I USED TO BE LIKE HER ONCE...?!

I HOPE NO ONE WAS WATCHING...

OUCH. I SAID NICE THINGS TO *HER*, TOO!

SHE PRAISED ME SOME ONE *PRAISED* ME!

TH-THANK YOU, MA'AM! GOOD NIGHT, MA'AM!

NEWPORT POLICE

Uh. AHEM!

DON'T ACT DUMB LEONA YOUR BIKE'S BROKE RIGHT? WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE TAKING THE TRAIN I FIGURED I'D GIVE YOU A LIFT BEEN WAITING

IT'S WAY PAST YOUR QUITTING TIME WHAT'RE YOU DOING? DECOY DUTY?

NO-- *Koff* I I WAS GONNA SAY SOMETHING WHEN I GOT SOMETHING IN MY THROAT

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GAG WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME

KOFF KOFF HACK!

KOFF!

BUT MAYBE YOU'RE *THINKING* SOMETHING I SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT HM?

A TRUE OFFICER AND A GENTLE-MAN" HUH?

YEESH' WHAT'S *THAT* FOR HUH? I'M JUST TRYING TO BE NICE YOU'RE PERFECTLY SAFE WITH ME

OH *YEAH?*

SAY AGAIN?

GUESS THIS IS MY DAY FOR GETTING LIFTS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S CARS

I'M JOKING' *JOKING!* WAIT UP! I'LL GET IN'

HEY! ME DRIVER' YOU *PASSENGER!*

I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR KIND OFFER

KCHAH

EH HEH HEH THANKS MUCH APPRECIATED

...DO YOU ALWAYS DRIVE WITH THE TOP DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER?

I SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN, BUT..

LEMME KNOW IF YOU'RE COLD.

BELT UP WILLYA!

HEY! TURN SIGNAL, BUDDY!

AH! LEONA OZAKI'S LEAVING!

AW, C'MON! SPLIT IT! GO HALFSIES! *PLEEEASE!*

SEE, SEE! JUST LIKE I SAID SHE WOULD! THIS MONEY IS ***MINE!***

PUSH

*FX (passing out)

DO... ING ....

YOU THERE! YOU TWO! WATCH WHAT... YOU'RE..

KRAK

NOT EVEN! IT WAS MY MONEY IN THE FIRST PLACE!

NO WAY, SWEET-HEART... THE WORLD OF THE GAMBLER IS COLD AND CRUEL!

FX WHOOSH

*FWMP

GOOD NIGHT, SIR!

YES, SIR!

STAMP!

EXCELLENT. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

I'LL HAVE IT SENT TO YOUR HOME TERMINAL AS SOON AS IT'S FINISHED.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE AT LEAST TWO AND A HALF HOURS TO EDIT ALL OF THE TEAM'S RE-CORDERS IN THE SIMU-LATOR.

SEE YOU TOMORROW.

JUST CAN'T GET IT OUT OF YOUR SYSTEM, CAN YOU?

OOPS...

POLICE
NEW PORT DEPT

YES, SIR. SORRY, SIR.

Eh?!

THE CHIEF? I DO BELIEVE HE LEFT ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO. WHY?

THE END-- *DOMINION: CONFLICT 1*, "NO MORE NOISE"

DOMINION™

FILE [FACT SHEETS]

- **FACT SHEET 1:** Insignia and Standard Equipment
- **FACT SHEET 2:** Newport Police Station Overview
- **FACT SHEET 3:** Tank Police Table of Organization

Which is to say, this corner is dedicated to explaining different aspects of the *Dominion* world. As per usual, this is a work of fiction, in which any resemblance to real police organizations and data is purely coincidental—and don't you forget it! I'll leave police uniforms and vehicles for a later edition and focus here on data that should help you get a better grasp of the immediate environment in which the characters live and work. If I let myself get into white-collar/blue-collar conflicts, sports-club cliques, class, or for that matter, this society's obsession with guaranteeing a stable life for all, its cloyingly pervasive social services, and its ever-deepening isolationism, then, well . . . it would take me forever, so I won't! (After all, fictional "fact sheets" are simply another medium for heightening the reality of an entire work, so it'd be a real bummer to go overboard and make things worse.) Again, it's been my intention from the beginning to downplay the continuity between this book and the first *Dominion* series. I'd be grateful if you'd think of *Dominion: Conflict 1* as occurring in a totally different world from the first book. That's yet another function of these fact sheets.

In *Dominion: C1*, the old Newport Police Bureau has been upgraded to a full-fledged police station to reflect the larger territory under its jurisdiction, following extensive landfill along the coast. The Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) have been disbanded and reorganized into an "appropriately sized defensive army" built around a core of short- and medium-range missiles, a variety of specialized submersibles, satellite-intelligence-gathering networks and the like. The majority of former JSDF personnel have been reassigned to "rescue units" and the police. Let's assume that this probably has something to do with why the Tank Police are so darned big. (Look, none of this is terribly important or deep, so don't be so picky . . . !)

This is near-future science fiction, which means that my police equipment and uniforms are all original and have almost nothing to do with existing police gear. The insignia is almost identical to the insignia used by the Japanese police prior to the issuance of new uniforms on April 1, 1994. That's because I started drawing *Dominion: C1* in the winter of 1992. Honest, that's all it means! However, the new insignia and emblems are such a pain to draw, I might still have modeled the insignia on the pre-1994 standards, even if I'd started in 1995.

Incidentally, advances in communications equipment and optical recording technology have led to major changes in communications codes and applications.

■ INSIGNIA AND STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Insignia worn with standard uniforms are made of metal and contain an IC for identifying the officer's unit (this is a passive ID device, similar to those used in citizenship cards and mass-transit or highway smart passes that are automatically debited when you pass the sensor. However, since metal insignia could cause injuries inside a tank, the Tank Police combat uniform has cloth insignia and the IC is embedded in the jacket lining. Other mobile-unit combat uniforms also use cloth insignia.

■ INSIGNIA CHART

Rank	Insignia	Personnel
Superintendent-general	☆☆☆	Prefectural police chief
Auditor-general	☆ ☆	Director, prefectural police headquarters budget committee
Senior superintendent	☆	Newport police chief, Tank Police 1st Battalion battalion commander
Superintendent	☆☆☆	Newport deputy chief I Chongul, Sakura, Tank Police battalion commanders
Police inspector	☆ ☆	Brenten, Totate, Tank Police company commanders, section chiefs
Assistant inspector	☆	Katsura, Madaradabara, Tank Police platoon leaders, assistant section chiefs
Police sergeant	☆☆☆	Leona, Yon, Pak, prefectural police headquarters receptionists, Tank Police squad leaders, Namba
Police corporal	☆ ☆	Habana, Toku
Police officer	☆	Asada, Shinozaki, Shimizu, Anna, Uni, Hurd, the three little meter maids of traffic control, Umeda

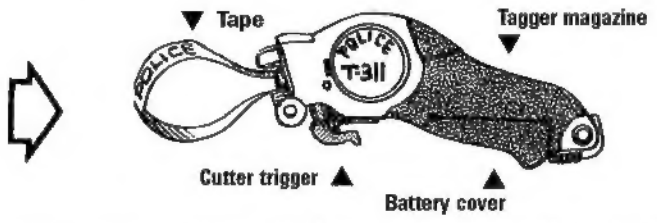
When Tank Police officers are in dress uniform, they wear a Tank Police emblem in addition to their regular insignia.

■ CLOTH INSIGNIA

★★★★	Gold stars on black background
★★★★	Silver stars on black background
★★★★ / ★★★ / ★★ / ★	Red stars on black background

■ STANDARD EQUIPMENT

"CUFFTAPERS" | These create plastic-tape handcuffs. (FYI, see the scene in the last episode where they arrest Urushi-Maru's female sidekick.) Each handcuff holder contains eight meters of tape. The tape is made of special fibers that cannot be cut by most knives—you have to melt them off using a laser tuned to a specific wavelength. Tape handcuffs allow an officer to easily take multiple suspects into custody at one time. The tagger unit contains a passive IC for unit identification.



FIREARMS | Standard-issue firearms include small pistols and the MN-23 sub-rifle. Both are multipurpose, non-lethal weapons, firing a variety of stun bullets, gas shells, tracker tags, and anesthetic rounds. As a result of the Japanese government's trade-imbalance rectification policy (what? I thought Japanese industry had all fled overseas to low-wage countries . . . ?!) and tighter gun-control laws in the United States, all police firearms are manufactured by American gun companies and modified in Japan. Most have a high-gloss finish so criminals will see that the police are armed. In the case of the MN-23, a video-gun camera is activated as soon as the safety is released, capturing the entire field of fire. The MN-23 also comes with a flashlight and knife built in. The guns are usually attached to the officer's belt by an elastic cord. It's not a good idea to blast away inside police headquarters, but in any case, most officers usually go unarmed.

BILLY CLUB | A three-section sliding duraluminum shaft (35-85cm). Police gloves are made of special fibers resistant to most cutting objects, eliminating the need for a handguard. Remove the handle cap and you can use it as a screwdriver (straight blade) or crowbar. Officers don't like them because they get in the way. In fact, many have found a useful life as clothes hangers in officers' lockers. They are rarely carried on the beat and are clipped beside the driver's seat when riding in patrol cars.

KNIFE | A folding blade mini-knife in the emergency-medical-kit tradition, including tweezers and small scissors, a mini-saw, and mini-pliers. This gets used about as often as the billy club. It's like that other white elephant, the SWAT knife—more useful for going out camping with the kids than for real combat.

REPOBOARD | As the name suggests, an electronic notepad for writing up police reports that is as powerful as today's fastest personal computers. Not the same as the police notebook.

NOTEBOOK | This is the famous police notebook. It's actually a form of personal ID card instead of an actual, electronic notebook. All officers carry this at all times, even when off duty (but not, of course, when working undercover). It has a black-and-white, two-tone color scheme with gold lettering.

COMMUNICATOR | A small, lightweight card that many officers clip to their police notebook. You can also connect it to external microphones, earphones, and other peripherals. Since the communicator itself has a limited range, you use the patrol-car communicator or public circuits to establish a network. You can think of it as half walkie-talkie, half cellular telephone. You can also expect to see one in your neighborhood gadget store real soon.

■ NEWPORT POLICE STATION OVERVIEW

In this story, the Chief doesn't blow his top or, for that matter, even seem to be having any stomach pains or pent-up frustration. I wonder what happened to him?

Not that I think it's all that important to go into such detail, but here it is anyway. I've modeled the table of organization on existing police structures, but I've been flexible in my interpretation: call it "originality." If you can get a general grasp of it, that should be enough for understanding the story. In practice, there are three kinds of work shifts at Newport, but I won't elaborate on them here. If they show up in the text, trust me. You can think of a twenty-four-hour day being divided up into three shifts, with staff trading off between them. In practice, the police can never recruit enough ideal people for the job, so they're always piecing things together with temps and inadequate staffing. And when there's a general call-up—a search warrant for a Yakuza (organized crime) headquarters, for instance, or protecting VIPs, or crowd control during marathons and other sports events, or even natural disasters—then even the security and traffic control divisions get into riot-police uniform and hit the street. A policeman's lot is not a happy one.

I Chongul, deputy chief

General affairs & accounting

Data processing division

- **General affairs** | Coordinates and facilitates work of other sections in accordance with directives and precedence.
- **Public affairs** | Busy dealing with the mass media.
- **Data management** | Manages files, oversees translation needs and data searches.
- **Communications management** | The Newport Police telecommunications section.

Takashi Namba

Traffic control division

Manako Totate

- **Traffic control and enforcement**
- **Traffic investigations**
- **Freeway patrol**
- **Highway patrol**

Yes, this is the section so well known to all drivers. There is a high percentage of female officers, making this one of the liveliest sections in the Newport Police Station.

Suzuna Suzushiro

Makina Deusu

Rerika Ito

Internal affairs division

In charge of internal security, guarding the cells for criminals and the drunk tank, parking lot supervision, general reception desk work, and sometimes even cleaning up and serving tea.

Detective division

- **Investigations section 1**
- **Investigations section 2**
- **Investigations section 3**
- **Investigations section 4**
- **Juvenile affairs**
- **Elderly affairs**
- **Crime prevention**
- **Refugee affairs**

Section one handles violent crimes including murder, armed robbery, and rape. Section two handles fraud and other intellectual crimes. Section three, theft, robberies, and financial crimes.

Section four, popularly known as the mob section, takes on the Yakuza—dealing with violent crimes, extortion, arson, etc. Juvenile crimes are widely recognized as being especially tricky to handle, but the same holds true for crimes involving the elderly and refugees. Crime prevention is another section with a thankless job and is responsible for controlling prostitution and enforcing the Gun and Sword Control Act. They even get stuck with land disputes and domestic arguments. They hunt for missing persons and intervene in fights. This is the section that earns the motto, "The policeman is your friend."

Patrol division

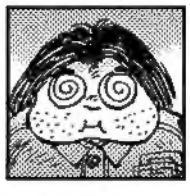
This is an important division, but I don't have enough room!

Public security division

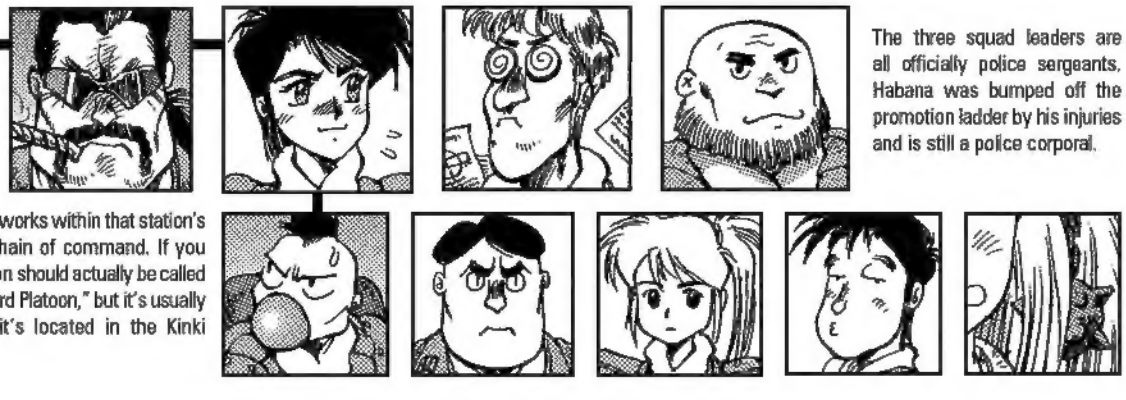
Public security includes the trade section involved with smuggling and other trade violations, controlled substances section (narcotics), the public security section, and the environmental pollution section. This division's job gets tougher as society becomes ever more borderless. It's an especially important division in Newport, with its harbor facilities and heavy reliance on trade.

Forensics section

Not a full division, but a section. Forensics division itself is located at Kinki police headquarters. It's an interesting division . . . they get to play with police dogs and police robots.



Tank Police



The three squad leaders are all officially police sergeants. Habana was bumped off the promotion ladder by his injuries and is still a police corporal.

The Tank Police units at Newport are not fully under the command of Newport police station itself, but are merely stationed on the NPPS grounds. A platoon of Tank Police is assigned to every major police station and works within that station's territory, but it has its own independent chain of command. If you want to be stuffy about it, Brenten's platoon should actually be called the "Kinki Police 1st Battalion 1st Company 3rd Platoon," but it's usually just called "Hyogo 3rd Platoon," since it's located in the Kinki region's Hyogo prefecture.

■ TANK POLICE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION (KINKI POLICE 1ST BATTALION)

Some readers may take umbrage at my basing the Kinki Police Department Tank Police 1st Battalion at Hyogo Prefectural Police Headquarters instead of the larger Osaka Metropolitan Police Department. In fact, this basing plan does not have any special meaning . . . but let me think up one in retrospect!

All police functions in the *Dominion: C1* universe are predicated on the assumption that Osaka Bay has undergone extensive land reclamation, beginning with the existing New Kansai International Airport which was built offshore entirely on landfill. It's a toss-up whether police jurisdiction for this vast, crime-ridden expanse of newly reclaimed and developed land would go to the Osaka or Hyogo departments.

More specifically, however, the reason I assigned the central command function for the Tank Police to Hyogo rather than Osaka goes back to the origins of the Tank Police themselves. In a world where the current Japanese Self-Defense Force has been disbanded, the Tank Police would play a crucial role in any national military emergency. It was my judgment that Hyogo Prefecture, which stretches from Osaka Bay in Japan's Inland Sea across Japan to the Japan Sea coast facing Korea would be a better option for smooth coordination between the Tank Police and regular police forces. Satisfied?

But now that I've come this far, let me point out that the Tank Police 2nd Battalion is based at the neighboring Shiga Prefectural Police Headquarters (or at least its commander is; individual units are assigned—like Brenten's—to different police departments and stations within Shiga Prefecture).

Since all the stories in this series are set within Newport City itself, I haven't laid out the chain of command beyond the battalion commander level. But of course, you can assume that in times of large natural disasters like the Kobe earthquake of 1995 or in national military emergencies, a higher level command structure comes into play (but I absolutely do not have plans to write a story about that).

Throughout all of Japan there are fifteen Tank Police battalions, of which eleven deploy the Bonaparte MT-9 as their main AFV. Two of the three battalions on the northern island of Hokkaido; one of the two battalions assigned to the Kyushu Police on the southern island of Kyushu; and one of the two battalions assigned to the Tohoku Police along the northeastern Sea of Japan coast of the main island of Honshu (that's four in all) are equipped for geographical reasons with long-barreled main battle tanks (MBT). That's where you find tanks that look like what you and I imagine when we first hear the word. But no battalion is equipped exclusively with Bonapartes or with MBTs.

Since the Tank Police are a police unit rather than a military unit, the tanks are treated as an extrapolation of a police patrol car. There are three types of work shifts. Using 1st Battalion 1st Company as an example, there is always one company on active duty in Hyogo Prefecture. A second is held in ready reserve, while a third is either training, in the maintenance dock, or simply resting. Even though the Tank Police would be called up for a military emergency, you can see that they are not really organized for effective combat.

Maintenance staff are all subcontractors instead of regular police officers. Their task is to maintain and check on the condition of the tanks, and if new tanks are brought in, new maintenance staff comes with them. If a different manufacturer wins the next-generation police-tank contract, then the entire maintenance staff will change overnight, and the repair bays will be reconfigured as well. When you take into consideration the need to retrain crews, procure parts and supplies and, for that matter, maintain corporate profitability, you can see that the selection of a new AFV is a very big deal indeed.

There are always one to two Tank Police battalions assigned to every regional Police Headquarters. The Kinki Police has two battalions, broken down into six companies, eighteen platoons, and fifty-four squads, with a total of 162 Bonaparte MT-9s, eighteen platoon command vehicles, six company command vehicles, and two battalion command vehicles. Primary command responsibility for the Tank Police in Hyogo resides in the 1st Battalion battalion commander. The commander of 2nd Battalion, and the 1st Battalion aide-de-camp, Sakura, are both superintendents of equal rank. In most cases, one platoon is assigned to each major police department under the Hyogo headquarters. However, for incidents requiring more than nine tanks—wide-area or mobile criminal activity, or heavily armed criminal groups—command devolves to the company commander (within the Kinki Police region, company commanders are based along with the battalion commanders at Osaka Metropolitan Police Headquarters and Hyogo Prefectural Police Headquarters). The company commander also takes command in deployments requiring more than six tanks and involving tactical deployment in excess of eight hours.

While it doesn't come up in the story, Bonaparte's pod (what we could call the turret: a spherical unit containing the main gun and the seat for the tank commander/gunner) can be replaced with several other optional pods. There are fire-fighting pods with a fire-suppressant tank in the middle, a long and narrow missile pod, and a wide rocket-launcher pod (these last two for use in military emergencies). It is also possible to attach various engineering units to the rear of Bonaparte for use in natural disasters or clearing large accidents, or for use by engineers in a military emergency. There is a missile pod for each tank in storage at the department where the tank is based, but in fact, there are no live missiles available at all. The idea is that they can be ordered from the manufacturer should the need arise. The rocket-launcher pods are preloaded with fire-suppressant rounds for use in fighting fires; there are no artillery rockets kept in stock. Every Bonaparte carries two fire-suppressant rounds in reserve at all times, together with two tear-gas rounds.

TANK POLICE 1ST BATTALION

The three company commanders are based at Hyogo Prefectural Police Headquarters, Osaka Metropolitan Police Headquarters, and Kyoto Metropolitan Police Headquarters, respectively. They are placed under the command of the headquarters section chief actually responsible for handling any given incident.

The battalion commander is based at Hyogo Prefectural Police Headquarters.

Hyogo Prefectural Police Superintendent-General

1st Battalion battalion commander

1st Battalion aide-de-camp Superintendent Sakura

1st Company

2nd Company (based in Osaka)

3rd Company (based in Kyoto)

1st Platoon T-10 (based at Toyonaka Central Police Department)

2nd Platoon T-20 (based at Southern Himeji Police Department)

3rd Platoon T-30 (based at Newport Police Department)

1st 2nd 3rd Platoon

1st 2nd 3rd Platoon

1st Squad **2nd Squad** **3rd Squad**

1st Squad (Borg's squad) **2nd Squad** (Mikami's squad) **3rd Squad**

1st Squad (Leona's squad) **2nd Squad** (Yon's squad) **3rd Squad** (Pak's squad)

T-11 T-12 T-13 T-14 T-15 T-16 T-17 T-18 T-19 T-21 T-22 T-23 T-24 T-25 T-26 T-27 T-28 T-29 T-31 T-32 T-33 T-34 T-35 T-36 T-37 T-38 T-39 T-41 T-162

Leona and Anna — Habana and Shinozaki — Asada and Shimizu — Pak and Umeda

Each tank crewperson has their own code. Bretten, for instance, is T-30A, Leona is T-31-1, Anna is T-31-2, Habana is T-32-1, Shinozaki is T-32-2, and on it goes.

Until Anna was deployed, Leona's squad was understrength and only had five Tank Police officers, one less than other units. How very convenient!

士　郎　正　宗 CONFLICT 1 [NO MORE NOISE]

DOMINION™

Welcome to the future of vast bio-constructed cities with crime so severe that the cops drive tanks! For top tank-cop Leona Ozaki (and her trusty tank, Bonaparte), the day-to-day is a tall order already, but when the villainous and sexy (and super-powered androids!) Puma sisters become duly deputized officers of the law and are assigned to "help" Leona catch Urushi-Maru, "The Skyscraper Pirate," things are bound to get out of hand, especially in the midst of a full-on, tank-on-tank streetfight between Leona and a corrupt arms manufacturer bent on getting the city's police tank contract!

Produced by international comics superstar Shirow Masamune, creator of *Appleseed* and *Ghost in the Shell, Dominion* is an ecological-dystopian-police procedural adventure/comedy as only Shirow can create!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

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